

Perez de Cuellar defers Africa tour

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has postponed a tour of five African states this month to concentrate on efforts to end the war between Iran and Iraq, aides said on Wednesday. He had been expected to leave New York in mid-January for visits to Ghana, Cameroon, Gabon, Zaire and Congo. U.N. Press Secretary Francois Ghisla said the tour, intended to take in African nations that Mr. Perez de Cuellar has not previously visited, was still on but might not begin until February at the earliest. Developments in the U.N. Security Council are expected this month, possibly winding up with the imposition of an arms embargo against Iran if Tehran continues to block the implementation of a ceasefire demand issued by the council last July 20. Britain's chief delegate, Crispin Tickell, who has long coordinated consultations on the Gulf crisis among the five permanent council members — the others are the United States, the Soviet Union, France and China — is the president this month. Diplomats said they expected further council action under his presidency.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Iran, Iraq discuss Turkey pipelines

ANKARA (R) — Turkey is holding separate talks on crude oil pipelines with Iran and Iraq, both seeking safe routes away from the perilous Gulf for their vital oil exports. Turkish Energy Ministry sources said on Wednesday Iraq was discussing a proposed third pipeline which would raise its export capacity through Turkey to the Mediterranean to 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd). Iran resumed talks in Ankara Tuesday on a pipeline to the Mediterranean with a capacity of between 500,000 and one million bpd, the sources said. Iran and Iraq, both short of foreign exchange, rely heavily on oil to finance their seven-year-old war. Iraq's Gulf outlets and a pipeline across Syria were closed early in the conflict. The ministry sources said talks with Iraq on a new pipeline, with a capacity of 300,000 bpd, were going well and construction of the line from the northern Iraqi oil city of Kirkuk to Batman in southeastern Turkey could start this year. Iraq already exports oil through two 1,000-kilometre parallel pipelines from Kirkuk to Yumurtalik on Iskenderun Bay.

Volume 13 Number 3673

AMMAN, THURSDAY-FRIDAY JANUARY 7-8, 1988, JAMADA AL AWWAL 17-18, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Kuwait to boost ties with Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jassim Mohammad Al Khorafi said Wednesday after talks with President Hosni Mubarak that his country wanted to boost economic ties with Egypt. "The aim of my discussions here is to increase investments and remove any negative aspects hindering them," he told reporters after the meeting with Mr. Mubarak. He said their talks focused on improving economic cooperation. Mr. Mubarak visits Kuwait on Jan. 11 as part of a tour of all six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

Syria sets standard exchange rate

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria set a standard exchange rate for the U.S. dollar Wednesday, replacing a system with five different official rates. A central bank spokesman said the Syrian pound would now trade at the set rate of 11.20/11.25 to the dollar. He told Reuters that the Finance and Economy Ministry had told banks and relevant businesses to apply the new rate in all their transactions.

Cairo frees 57 student protesters

CAIRO (AP) — Security officials Wednesday ordered the release on bail of 57 students detained after a demonstration against Israeli actions on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. Police used batons and tear gas Tuesday to disperse the demonstrators outside Cairo's Ain Shams University. "The... prosecution has charged them with participation in a forbidden demonstration," MENA said, but added the students were being released on bail of 30 to 50 pounds (\$13-\$24). The report did not specify whether more students remained in detention.

Moscow hopes for Afghan pullout in '88

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow hopes to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan in 1988 and conditions for this are auspicious, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has quoted as saying on Wednesday. "We would like 1988 to be the last year of the presence of Soviet troops in your country," Mr. Shevardnadze told the Afghan news agency Bakhtar. The interview was carried by the official Soviet news agency TASS as Mr. Shevardnadze left for home after two days of talks with President Najibullah in Kabul.

S. Korea beats Egypt

DOHA (R) — South Korea beat Egypt in a penalty shoot out on Wednesday after the Asian and African soccer champions drew 1-1 (half-time 0-0) at the end of regular time. Scorers (regular time): Lee Tae Ho (South Korea, 65th minute); Ayman Younis (Egypt, 85th minute). Penalties: South Korea (4) Chung Hae Won, No Soo Jin, Pyun Dyoung Joo and Kim Sam Soo. Egypt: (3) Imad Sulaiman, Ali Shihadeh and Ahmad Al-Ka's.

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Arabs keep up violent protests in W. Bank, Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least four more Palestinians Wednesday amid continuing widespread anti-occupation protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Arab lawyers meanwhile said at least two of the Palestinians detained by the Israeli occupation authorities since Dec. 9 were tortured with electric shocks in prisons to extract confessions. After a week of relative calm, violent demonstrations erupted throughout the occupied territories on Monday, a day after an Israeli soldier shot dead a Palestinian housewife near Jerusalem.

On Tuesday, Israeli soldiers killed two residents of the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Khan Yunis and wounded at least 15. In the West Bank city of Tulkarem, an Israeli army officer on Wednesday shot and wounded a 21-year-old resident of the nearby Nur Shams refugee camp after the man attacked an army vehicle and stabbed a soldier in the hand, the army said.

OIC committee calls for sanctions against Israel

RABAT (Agencies) — Islamic ministers called on Wednesday for sanctions against Israel and an inquiry into its handling of Palestinian protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The 15-member Jerusalem Committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), meeting in the Moroccan mountain resort of Ifrane, demanded "radical measures" against Israel, including sanctions under Article 7 of the United Nations Charter.

Palestinian sources at the meeting said the committee agreed to provide \$10 million in aid to Palestinians affected by a month of protests in the occupied territories. "We urge the international community to investigate, under the supervision of the United Nations and the International Red Cross, the extent of Israel's horrible crimes against the Palestinian people and to put a stop to them," the committee said in a statement issued after the meeting.

The committee, made up of foreign ministers, asked the U.N. secretary-general to "intervene

The army clamped a curfew on part of Tulkarem, as well as the nearby town of Qalqilya and the Balata refugee camp near Nablus after violent anti-Israeli demonstrations there.

Two Palestinians were treated for wounds after troops fired on protesters at the Nusairat and Bureij refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. U.N. relief workers said. And a Palestinian woman kindergarten teacher was hit in the face by a rubber bullet in the Jabalya refugee camp and taken to a hospital in Gaza Strip, they said.

Widespread rock-throwing by groups of Palestinian protesters continued in the refugee camps around Jerusalem and in the Gaza Strip.

(Continued on page 3)

King contacts Hassan II

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday contacted King Hassan II of Morocco to inquire after his health and wish him continuing good health. During the phone call King Hussein briefed the King on the outcome of the Jerusalem Committee meetings which ended its meeting in Morocco on Wednesday and on the resolutions issued by the committee.

urgently to stop Zionist actions against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories." It backed a proposed international Middle East peace conference and fixed Jan. 15 as a Day of Islamic Solidarity with the Palestinians.

The Palestinian sources said the cash aid was to come from the committee's Jerusalem Fund, created in 1976 to support Palestinians in the occupied areas and to

(Continued on page 2)

Sabbah consecrated at 'gesture of peace' Vatican ceremony

VATICAN CITY (Agencies) — Pope John Paul II on Wednesday consecrated 10 new bishops including Palestinian Michel Sabbah who becomes the first Arab Roman Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem.

The consecration at a solemn mass in St. Peter's Basilica was attended by Arab envoys, including Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Rome representative Nimer Hammad, 12 Arab ambassadors and Arab League official Mohammad Durra.

Israel, which has no diplomatic relations with the Vatican, was represented by Miron Gordon, a Rome embassy official who handles contacts with the Holy See. It was one of those rare occasions which brought a representative of the Israeli government and a PLO official under the same roof.

The consecration was thus transformed by Pope John Paul II into "a gesture of peace" involving representatives from all over the Middle East.

The recent naming of 54-year-old Sabbah as the first Arab to head Jerusalem's Patriarchy for Latin rite Catholics has been de-

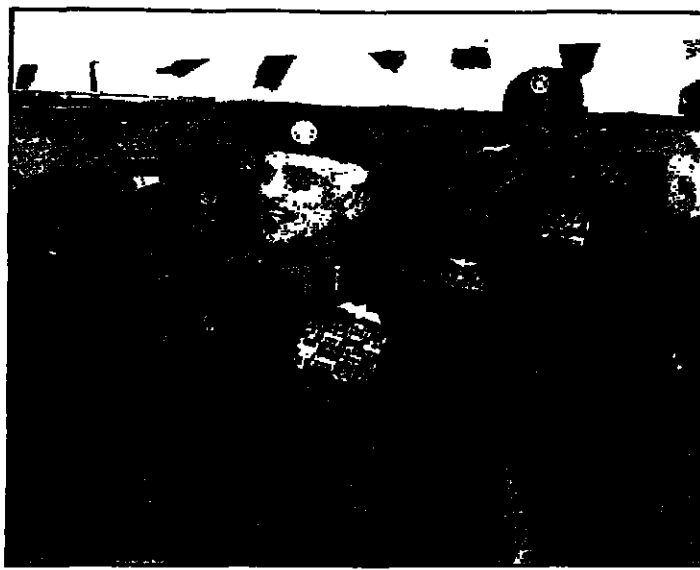
scribed by the Vatican as a strictly religious appointment. But Patriarch Sabbah was clearly the focus for many of the non-Catholic guests, who composed an unusually diverse showing from the Middle East at an official Vatican function. He described it as "evidently a gesture of peace."

A Vatican source, speaking later on condition of anonymity, made it clear the Middle East representatives were there on the initiative of the Pope, as a symbol of peace.

After the ceremony, the Pope mingled in Chapel of the Pieta with the representatives from Israel, Libya, Iran, the PLO, Syria, and other Gulf and North African states, shaking hands and exchanging a few words, Vatican officials said.

Also present was Greek Catholic Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, who just broke a 15-day fast to protest Israeli repression in the occupied territories, and Tawfiq Zayyad, the mayor of Nazareth.

The Vatican directory lists his patriarchal jurisdiction as Palestine, Jordan and Cyprus.



KING VISITS ARMY UNIT: His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, accompanied by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, visits the Fifth Royal Armoured Division Wednesday. During the visit, the King was briefed on the division's training programmes and activities (Petra photo)

Mellor rejects Israeli criticism

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A top British politician who caused a furor by repudiating an Israeli army officer, defended his actions Wednesday and said he would continue to speak out against Israel's do-nothing policy in the occupied territories.

David Mellor, a junior minister in charge of Middle East affairs at Britain's Foreign Office, told reporters Israel's policy of "drift and limbo" were responsible for the recent violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr. Mellor visited Jabalya refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip on Sunday and, in front of reporters and a television crew, sharply upbraided an army officer for arresting a 14-year old boy accused of stonethrowing.

He also described the conditions in the camp to the reporters as "an affront to civilised values." At a press conference Tuesday, Mr. Mellor said Israel could not continue to maintain the current situation in the refugee camps.

"Had (Defence Minister Yitzhak) Rabin been in the camp with me, he would have seen, as I saw, a situation in which his men are increasingly being asked to do a job no human being can do without losing control, without people dying," said Mr. Mellor.

"How long are people going to think that 1.5 million people can just be kept under the point of a gun. It can't go on," he said.

Mr. Mellor's comments on Sunday caused an uproar among Israeli officials who reprimanded him for speaking out in public and criticising an army officer who could not reply and was not responsible for government policy.

On Monday, Trade Minister Ariel Sharon said Mr. Mellor's remarks were "made by a man who maybe forgot Britain does not rule any more in this country."

Mr. Mellor rejected the criticism and said he spoke for the entire international community which condemns Israel's policies in the occupied territories.

"We have used private diplomacy many times in the past but the limbo and inertia remain... the time for public speaking has come and the public speaking won't cease," said Mr. Mellor.

He said this had been proven by a unanimously backed Security Council resolution criticising Israel's plans to deport nine Palestinians who were alleged leaders of the current uprising.

Mr. Mellor also justified his comments to the army officer at the Jabalya camp, saying his visit there had confirmed his views about the plight of the Palestinian refugees.

"It's not my fault that there has been a collapse of confidence

Syrian envoys begin Gulf peace mission with meetings in Kuwait

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Syria launched an intensive bid to break the deadlock in efforts to halt the Iran-Iraq war with the dispatch of two senior envoys on Wednesday to Arab Gulf states.

Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa began their mission in Kuwait, buoyed by a positive response from Tehran to the idea of talks with the six Arab states.

Arab and Western diplomats in the region say that a major Syrian concern at present is to try to avert a fresh Iranian offensive into Iraqi territory on the southern front, following a massive mobilisation of Iranian troops.

Damascus, they add, also wants to promote better relations between Iran and the Arab states.

Mr. Sharaa made four trips last

Jordan welcomes U.S.-supported resolution

Security Council unanimously condemns Israel's expulsion plan

Combined agency dispatches

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council has unanimously condemned Israel for its plans to expel nine Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The council resolution, in which the U.S. joined a vote against Israel for the first time in six years, was widely welcomed by Arab states.

In Amman, the minister of occupied territories affairs, Marwan Dudin, welcomed the U.N. resolution which came late Tuesday and said it served as a reminder to Israel, "which launched the 1967 war against the Arabs

and occupied parts of Arab territory, that the world refuses to accept its hegemony and force imposed on the Palestinian people."

The United States said earlier on Tuesday that Israel would be violating the 1949 Geneva Convention on the treatment of civilians in wartime if it carried out its expulsion plans.

The council reaffirmed that the convention was applicable to Palestinian and other Arab territories that Israel had occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem.

Following is the text of the resolution. The Security Council,

Recalling its Resolution 605 (1987) of 22 December 1987. Expressing grave concern over the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. Having been apprised of the decision of Israel, the occupying power, to "continue the deportation" of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories. Recalling the Geneva convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12 August 1949, and in particular Articles 47 and 49 of same, 1. Reaffirms once again that the Geneva Convention relative

(Continued on page 3)

Peres testifies at Vanunu trial

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres, testified Wednesday at the trial of former nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu that Israel's "security" was damaged when the defendant revealed its nuclear secrets, lawyers said.

Mr. Peres took the stand for just over an hour at the closed-door trial and answered questions from the prosecution and defence. said Avigdor Feldman, Mr. Vanunu's attorney.

But Mr. Feldman told reporters outside the courtroom the testimony was severely curtailed by a gag order issued by the prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, barring Mr. Peres from answering questions in five areas. Mr. Feldman said he could not reveal what the subjects were, but described them as central to the case.

Mr. Feldman sharply criticised Mr. Shamir for limiting Mr. Peres' testimony, and said he was preparing an appeal to the supreme court to strike down the gag order and summon Mr. Peres again.

"The prime minister has interfered with the justice system by preventing important information from reaching the court," Mr. Feldman said. "He has withheld information in a very undemocratic way."

Prosecutor Uzi Chasson said Mr. Peres was probably the last witness in the trial, which began Aug. 30 and resumed Monday after a monthlong break. Mr. Peres was subpoenaed by the defence to give evidence on Israeli nuclear policy at the trial, where Mr. Vanunu stands charged with treason and espionage after telling the London Sunday Times that Israel had been producing nuclear warheads for 20 years.

Carlucci holds talks with Bahraini leaders; Brutents briefs Sheikh Jaber on Soviet stand

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci held talks with Bahraini leaders Wednesday as a senior Soviet envoy met with Kuwaiti officials on issues related to the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war and means to end the conflict.

Mr. Carlucci said here Washington remained committed to defending U.S.-flag ships in the Gulf, but refused to rule out a reduction in U.S. naval forces patrolling in the strategic waterway.

A senior Bahraini official said the U.S. naval presence had helped save the region from chaos stemming from the Iran-Iraq war.

In Baghdad, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein vowed that his army was ready to vanquish the

Iranians, reportedly massing for a big Gulf war offensive.

The U.S. defence secretary held talks with Bahrain's crown prince and defence minister, Sheikh Hamad Ibn Isa Al Khalifa. He was due to dine with the emir, Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa.

Before leaving Kuwait, the first stop of his Gulf tour, Mr. Carlucci told the AP that he had not authorised any reduction in the 33-ship U.S. force assembled in and near the Gulf.

But he later said changes in the force were always under consideration.

"Our commitment to protecting American-flag vessels and our commitment to continue to work with the moderate Arab states to meet their legitimate security

needs continues, and there will be no change whatsoever in that commitment," he told ABC television's Good Morning America in an interview from Bahrain.

Mr. Carlucci said reports that the U.S. was planning to scale down its forces in the Gulf were "not true as of this point," but added he would "review the overall situation" with U.S. President Ronald Reagan "and then its possible decisions will be made. But let me emphasise that no policy changes are contemplated."

Bahraini Information Minister Tariq Al Moayed said U.S. efforts "have been succeeding and have increased American prestige."

(Continued on page 4)

Resistance fighters give ultimatum to Israel, SLA

BEIRUT (R) — Resistance fighters threatened Wednesday to use force unless Israeli forces lifted a week-long siege of a South Lebanese village where security sources said people were running out of food.

"We will break the siege with the guns of our strugglers and will not go begging to the United Nations (for help)," said a statement by the Islamic Resistance, a coalition of pro-Iranian guerrilla groups.

The statement, delivered to news organisations in Beirut, said Israeli troops and their allies in the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia must end the blockade of Yohmor, a village just north of an Israel-declared "security zone," by Wednesday night.

Guerrillas fired several rockets at two SLA positions at dawn on Wednesday but there were no casualties, security sources said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said in Beirut that efforts had begun to get food and medicine to Yohmor

by Friday.

A spokeswoman said ICRC delegates entered the village on foot on Tuesday. "There is a problem inside the village but we don't know how bad it is," she said.

Israeli and SLA units cordoned off Yohmor last Wednesday after a guerrilla raid on a nearby SLA post, the security sources said.

Conditions in the village are becoming desperate, especially with the cold and people running out of food," one source said.

He said the 6,000 villagers could move around freely inside the village but could not leave it and farmers could not go to their fields.

Civilians in the area said the Israeli and SLA troops were refusing to let Lebanese past checkpoints clamped on all its entrances.

Falangist militiamen open fire at U.N. helicopters

BEIRUT (R) — Right-wing Falangist militiamen shot at two U.N. helicopters over Beirut port on Wednesday and security sources said some ships left the port amid fears that it could be shelled by the progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia.

The sources said the ships panicked after an official of the Soviet embassy told two Soviet vessels to leave. Soviet embassy officials were not available for comment.

It was not known why the Soviet ships left but a political source said the mostly Christian rightists feared the Soviets might expect PSP, which has good relations with Moscow, to shell the port.

The mostly Druze PSP and the Christian-dominated military have declared blockades of each other's ports in a dispute over a helicopter which a deserting air force officer flew to Druze territory last week.

The Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, the fighting arm of the

Falangist Party, fearing the helicopter would be used to attack Christian areas, said all helicopter flights over its areas should be coordinated in advance.

An LF spokesman said the United Nations helicopters, which the militia fired at with anti-aircraft guns, had not abided by the instructions. He said the gunners ceased fire when they realised the craft belonged to the United Nations. The helicopters were not hit, he said.

A U.N. spokesman said: "I talked to the pilots (of the helicopters) and they said they were not aware of any shot."

U.N. helicopters make regular flights ferrying men and supplies from a landing area in east Beirut to the U.N. peace-keeping force in South Lebanon.

The army has intercepted three cargo ships off the PSP-controlled port of Jiyeh, 25 kilometres south of Beirut, since Saturday, but the PSP has not yet taken measures to enforce its blockade of rightist- or government-controlled ports.

Abbas Hamadei considered traitor in Beirut — lawyer

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (AP) — The defence attorney for alleged kidnapper Abbas Ali Hamadei told a Dusseldorf court Wednesday that his client is considered a traitor in Beirut and would be killed if he returned there.

Abbas Hamadei is accused of kidnapping two West Germans nearly a year ago in a bid to win the release of his brother, Mohammad Ali Hamadei, accused of masterminding the June 1985 TWA hijacking.

The Abbas Hamadei trial entered its second day Wednesday in a heavily guarded Dusseldorf courtroom.

"He is considered a traitor by some circles in Beirut. If he returned to Beirut he would be shot and killed," Defence Attorney Eckhard Hild told the crowded courtroom.

Hild did not elaborate. West Germany has said it will not swap either of the imprisoned Hamadei brothers to gain the release of a West German hostage in Lebanon, despite pressure coming from Shi'ite Muslim extremists in Beirut.

The kidnappers have issued a warning in Beirut, with threaten-

ing language indicating that West Germany may be targeted for terrorist attacks stemming from alleged mistreatment of 23-year-old Mohammad Hamadei.

That threat became an issue in the courtroom on Wednesday, as Chief Judge Klaus Arend read a news account of it and asked defence attorney Hild to comment.

"The contents (of the warning) is an attempt to influence this trial. But this trial must be carried through," Hild replied.

Abbas Hamadei, 29, declined to comment on the threatening letter, but instead commented on his prison conditions.

"I have never been mistreated or beaten. I am treated like any other prisoner," said Abbas Hamadei.

He also repeated his appeal for the release of Rudolf Cordes, the West German held hostage by the kidnappers who issued the state-

ment in Beirut. Abbas Hamadei denies prosecution charges he took part in the January 1987 abduction.

As a character witness the court heard Mohammad Derwish, an acquaintance of Abbas Hamadei from the city of Saarbrücken in the West German state of Saarland. The defendant once lived in Saarland, which borders France.

Derwish, 58, who said he was born in Syria, testified he had met with Abbas Hamadei in Saarbrücken several times after the two first became acquainted about six years ago. But he said he did not consider himself a close friend of Hamadei.

Chief Judge Arend asked Derwish whether he thought Abbas Hamadei was sympathetic to terrorist causes in Lebanon.

The witness replied: "No. Just the opposite. One hundred per cent against."

Roland Bachmeier, a spokesman for the Federal Interior Ministry, said Tuesday that identity and baggage checks were increased at all the country's major airports and at other key border points.

Iranian hunger strikers enter 2nd month

ABIDJAN (R) — Iranian refugees expelled from France to Gabon entered the fifth week of their hunger strike on Wednesday, with three of them in hospital in serious condition, a spokesman for the group said.

"We are still determined to fast until flown back to France," spokesman Mohammad Ali-Ye Sheikh told Reuters by telephone from the Gabonese capital, Libreville.

France expelled the 12 Iranians and three Turks on Dec. 8, saying they were members of the People's Mujahadeen — the main armed group opposed to Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini — and threatened France's national security.

Sheikh said the 12 Iranian hunger strikers were under round-the-clock medical supervision at a hotel in Libreville and were all suffering headaches and low blood pressure.

They were taking only fruit juice and tea with sugar and four of them were suffering from acute eye pains had paid a brief visit to hospital earlier in the week, the spokesman said.

Hunger strikers now in hospital include Assan Deghani, who was admitted on Dec. 15.

Another Iranian, Ebrahim Tavangar, was rushed to hospital on Monday for the third time since he arrived in Gabon, and the latest casualty was Ali Yaka, taken to hospital on Tuesday.

"We have no direct contact with French officials here but we receive daily visits from a special adviser to Gabonese President Omar Bongo and a representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)," Sheikh said.

He said the Gabonese official told them Mr. Bongo was in daily contact with the French authorities but the negotiations with France were complicated by the hunger strikers' demand to be allowed back to France.

Israeli judge urges fast confessions in Arab trials

NABLUS, Occupied West Bank (AP) — A military judge presiding over the trials of accused Arab protesters repeatedly told defendants he would reward quick confessions with lighter sentences.

Defence lawyers said such exhortations are symptomatic of an unjust legal system seeking to rush through hundreds of cases piled up following mass arrests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Army officials have denied allegations of summary justice. "It's not unusual for a judge to tell a defendant that a confession would be a factor in the amount of punishment imposed," said Amos Guiora, a military prosecutor in Ramallah. "It's not a threat that he will get a harsher sentence, God forbid."

The army detained about 1,200 Palestinians in a crackdown on a month-long revolt in the occupied territories in which at least 24 Arabs died of army gunfire.

Guiora said charges have been brought against about 500 defendants in Nablus, the largest court.

He said one was acquitted and 30 to 40 wounded. In Ramallah, 48 detainees were charged, but none was tried, he said.

The remainder were given trial dates to allow both sides to present witnesses, army officials said. More than 200 detainees have been released.

U.S. government observers and Israeli civil rights activists who attended some of the trials said they believed that they were fair.

About 40 Palestinians, most in their teens and 20s, were brought from Atlit prison in northern Israel to the military court in the West Bank city of Nablus.

The defendants, who wore dark blue prison uniforms, sat eight rows deep on the right side of the small courtroom, while about 30 women in traditional Arab dress filled the benches on the left.

Some spectators whispered words of encouragement to the defendants, while others passed scribbled notes and tissues. About 100 relatives waited outside

the court despite heavy rainfall. During a three-hour session Tuesday, Judge Yehoshua Halevy postponed or scheduled for trial eight cases, often acting at the request of the defence.

He sentenced three defendants who pleaded guilty to throwing stones. Two 15-year-old boys were given prison terms of two months and the third, also a teen-ager, was sentenced to three months. Each was also given a one-year suspended sentence and fined 200 shekels.

The International Commission of Jurists in Geneva has published affidavits of security prisoners who complained, among other things, of being beaten and subjected to extremely hot or cold showers.

Army officials have denied allegations of systematic torture, but acknowledged that isolated cases of mistreatment might have occurred.

Dudu Yahav, the army's legal adviser in the West Bank, said judges immediately investigate complaints of mistreatment.

Defence lawyers also said that since the mass arrests began last month, their working conditions have deteriorated sharply because of confusion in the court system.

Lawyer Omar Bayadneh said some cases files are long and defendants are not brought to court on their trial date and prisoners can't tell lawyers where their clients are being held.

"It's chaos," Mr. Bayadneh said. On Monday, one case had to be postponed because the file could not be found.

To protest the conditions, lawyers in the West Bank and Gaza have gone on strike, saying they would not represent detainees arrested after the revolt began on Dec. 8. Some of the cases heard Monday concerned incidents before that date.

Army officials acknowledged that there was some confusion initially because of the large number of cases. But Guiora said a special official has since been set up to field inquiries from lawyers.

U.S. helicopter rescues Gulf fishermen

ABOARD THE USS MCCLUSKY (R) — Crewmen of a U.S. navy supply helicopter rescued four Indian fishermen who said they had spent three days floating in a large fishbox in the Gulf after their boat broke up and sank.

News of the Sunday rescue was delayed until a pool of reporters embarked to cover a U.S. navy convoy of Kuwaiti tankers through the Gulf on Tuesday morning. Among the escorting warships was this frigate.

Under security rules governing the pool, journalists taking part may file stories only when aboard American ships and aircraft.

Navy officials said the SH-3 helicopter was flying cargo and a passenger to the U.S. command ship La Salle on Sunday when the crew spotted four men in the six-foot-square (two metres) box frantically waving pieces of white cloth at them.

According to the crew's official report of the rescue, the helicop-

ter approached the men warily, then closed in when it became apparent they were in trouble.

A helicopter crewman, Paul Jahnke, donned a wetsuit while another crewman directed the pilot into a hover about 15 feet (five metres) above the cast-aways.

Jahnke jumped into the 65-degree (Fahrenheit) water and helped the fishermen into the rescue hoist.

Ethiopia denies agreeing on Sudan talks

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia has denied a Sudanese report that it agreed to send representatives to Khartoum on Thursday for a meeting to discuss border tensions.

"As far as Ethiopia is concerned, the date and venue for

the meeting is still under discussion," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told Reuters on Wednesday.

The disagreement followed Sudanese reports of cross-border shooting and shelling at a town recaptured last week from the rebel Sudan People's Liberation

Army (SPLA). Ethiopia denied that its troops were involved in the fighting.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Mamoun Sanad announced on Tuesday that a joint committee on border tension would hold its first meeting in Khartoum.

Arms from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists, including J. M. W. Turner, were on display at the Haya Arts Centre (Jan. 3 to 7).

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:50	Koran
15:55	Programme Review
16:05	Children programmes
16:20	Mop and Smiff
16:35	Children's programmes
17:35	Wonderful world of Magic
18:15	French teaching programme
18:40	Men and Machine
19:35	He's the Mayor
20:00	World News Reports
20:30	Programme Review
20:50	News in Arabic
20:55	Arabic series
21:30	Local varieties programme
21:50	Arabic film
22:00	News in Arabic
23:10	Arabic film contd.

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	Rae Carnot
18:30	French documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varities
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:40	Varities
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Kate and Alie
21:00	Science facts and Fun
21:10	Rags to Riches
21:30	News in English
22:30	Feature film: 'Juan'

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07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsweek
08:00	Morning song
08:30	News Summary
09:05	Morning Show Contd.
11:00	Country Music
11:30	Filmsville: The story of Motown
11:45	News Summary
12:05	Now Music
13:00	News Summary
13:15	Pop Session
13:40	News Summary
14:30	Discovering Music
15:00	Concert Hour
15:30	News Summary
16:05	Old Favorites
16:30	News Summary
17:00	30 Years of American Top Twenties
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Special Feature
18:30	Music
19:00	Newsweek
19:30	Date with a Star

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

10:00	Koran
10:30	Programme Review
10:50	Cartoons and Children programme
11:20	Religious series
12:30	Friday's prayer
14:00	Sport magazine
15:05	Art and Crafts
15:30	English series
16:45	Arabic Comedy
17:15	Believe It or Not
17:45	News reports
18:20	Viewer's choice (Arabic)
19:20	Local programme
19:50	Programme Review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	A programme on the West Bank

20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show Contd.
21:15	News Summary
22:00	Evening Show Contd.
23:00	News Summary
23:05	Evening Show Contd.
23:57	News Headlines
24:00	Close Down

BPC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

06:00	Newsweek
06:30	Sports World
06:45	Reflections
07:00	Radio Review 07:00 World News 07:00
24 Hours:	News Summary 07:30 Peoples' Choice 07:45 The World Today
08:00	Newsweek 08:30 Time for Verse
08:45	The Future of the World 09:00
News 09:30	24 Hours: News Summary
09:30	The World 09:45 Network UK 10:00 World News 10:00
Reflections	10:15 Country Style 10:30
John Peel	10:45 11:00
British Press Review	11:15 The World Today
11:45	Training for Tomorrow
12:00	News Summary 12:30 Flying the Flag
13:00	News Summary: Just Little Of This 13:30 News About Britain
13:15	New Ideas 13:25 A Letter from England 13:30 Citizens 14:00 Radio
Newspaper	14:15 Multitrack 2 14:45
Sports, Round-up	15:00 World News
15:00	24 Hours: News Summary 15:30
Network UK	15:45 Stuart Colman's Record Hop 16:00 Outlook: 5-Minute
News 16:45	Write On! 17:00 Radio
Newsweek	17:15 The Features 17:30
18:00	World News 18:05 Commentary
18:15	Assignment 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:05
A Letter from England	19:15
19:45	Sports Roundup 20:00 Newsweek
20:30	Discovery 21:00 News Summary: Outlook 21:30 Stock Market Report
21:45	Hate Her? Hump! 22:00 News Summary: Memories of a Fox-Hunting Man

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1520 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740,
 11925 and 15210 KHz

06:00	News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 17:00
17:10	World News 17:15 Music
USA 18:00	News 18:10 Focus 18:20
Special English News & Features	19:00
News 19:10	Newsline 19:30 Magazine
Sport, World News	20:10 Focus 20:30
Special English, News & Features	21:00
News 21:10	Newsline 21:30 Music
USA 22:00	News & Editorial 22:15
Music USA Jazz	23:00 News 23:10
World Report	

21:15	Arabic Series
22:00	Varities
22:30	Arabic series
22:40	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Series contd.

PROGRAMME TWO

17:15	French film
19:00	'Le Monocle' News in French
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varities
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Nothing is Easy
21:10	Moonlighting
22:00	News in English
22:30	Palace Crest

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
 & partly on 950 kHz. SW
 Tel: 77411-19

07:00	Light Music
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Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and British Ambassador to Jordan John Coles Wednesday sign memoranda on a £5 million British loan to help finance projects in Jordan's five-year national development plan (Petra photo)

Jordan and Britain sign memoranda on £5m loan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Britain Wednesday signed and exchanged memoranda under which Britain will provide a £5 million loan to help finance a number of projects within the Jordan's five-year national development plan.

Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and British Ambassador to Jordan John Coles signed the memoranda, which provide for spending the loan on schemes still to be agreed upon by both sides. The loan will be in addition to a £10 million British loan to help finance the five-year plan, which was agreed upon early in November during a visit to Jordan by British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe.

Upon announcing the first loan, Mr. Howe said that it was needed to help Jordan carry out its major development programme. He said also that the British government would continue to give all possible assistance within the framework of an overall aid allocation to Jordan.

Already, about \$500,000 — half of Britain's technical cooperation assistance programme — is devoted to scholarships and training, according to Mr. Howe. He added that this amount would be increased during 1988, and that there would be a 40 per cent increase in the number of Jordanians studying in the United Kingdom at British government's expense.

WTO proposes Amman as site for tourism conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Foreign Ministry has received a proposal from the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) sounding out the possibilities of holding an unprecedented international parliamentary conference on tourism in Amman.

WTO Secretary General Willibald Pahr sent a letter to Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri informing him that his organisation would be interested to know if Jordan's Parliament would consider hosting such an international conference here.

Jordan was chairman of WTO's recent meeting which was held in Madrid between Sept. 22 and Oct. 1. That meeting adopted a resolution calling for a meeting of world parliaments to discuss the issue of tourism.

Mr. Masri has sent a proposal to Prime Minister Zaid Rifai informing him about WTO's request. No decision has yet been made.

According to WTO's letter of intention, a copy of which was received by the Jordan Times on Wednesday, the forthcoming meeting aims at ensuring a greater involvement of parliamentarians in the development of domestic and international tourism.

"Considering that tourism must be recognised as a priority sector of the economy of WTO's full members, by governments and by parliaments who are joint-

ly called upon to define and to implement national policy in this sphere," the organisation decided to convene a parliamentary conference on tourism, according to the letter.

The prospective conference also aims at defining priorities for overcoming obstacles to the development of tourism, with a view to seeking coordinated legislative solutions.

Other objectives are to identify problems for national and international communities caused by the accelerating growth in tourist flows and to determine if the methods used by parliaments in considering tourism issues during the legislative process properly address current needs.

If convened, the conference would be organised by WTO in cooperation with the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) and the parliament of the host country. According to the letter, it would be desirable to hold the meeting before the end of 1988.

Correction

In a report on 1987 income tax revenues which appeared in the Jan. 5 issue of the Jordan Times, it was incorrectly stated that the decrease in income tax revenues from 1986 to 1987 was JD 6 million. The actual figure was JD 2.6 million.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan to attend touristic fair

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to take part in the International Touristic Fair which will begin in Helsinki, Finland, on Jan. 9. A Tourism Authority delegation will represent Jordan at the 9-day fair.

Karak, Tafleh telephone service automated

KARAK (Petra) — The Telecommunications Corporation has completed work on transforming manual telephone services into automatic dialling, in all parts of Karak and Tafleh governorates.

Jordan to attend agricultural talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a four-day meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), due to open in Rome on Jan. 25. Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan will represent Jordan at the meeting, during which a general working plan for the current year is to be discussed. According to an official announcement, Jordan will also take part in the meetings of an economic and social committee set up by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) due to open in Jeddah on Jan. 16. The five-day meeting which will tackle issues related to development in Islamic countries will be attended by two senior officials from the foreign ministry, the announcement said.

KLM presents 'Holland Calling'

AMMAN (J.T.) — KLM Royal Dutch Airlines in cooperation with The Netherlands Board of Tourism present the great airline show for enjoyment and business alike.

Since 1986, the "Holland Calling" show has been touring the world in 76 countries served by KLM.

Mr. Najeeb Fakhoury, general manager of KLM in Jordan, in-

Preparations for construction of Prince Hamzeh Hospital underway

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Public Works has taken steps towards the construction of the Prince Hamzeh Hospital in Amman, which is expected to cost JD 15 million.

The ministry said that 15 local and foreign contracting companies have already qualified to bid for the project.

Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that a tender for the project is expected to be announced next month, and work on the project is expected to

begin by August 1988.

The project, expected to be completed in early 1991, is to be set up on 51,000 square metres and will be financed by a loan from the Social Security Corporation (SSC).

Last month, Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh revealed that the 550-bed hospital would be built in Amman, and that it would be the second hospital owned by the Health Ministry after Al Bashir Hospital, which is 30 years old.

Dr. Hamzeh said that documents and designs for the new hospital were ready, and that a

tender was still to be announced by the Health Ministry.

In November, Dr. Hamzeh said that the Health Ministry spent more than JD 59.4 million on health services in 1987, covering hospitals, health centres, clinics and vaccination campaigns.

This figure, he said, was almost 6.7 per cent of the total national budget for the past year. The minister noted that Jordan's allocation for health care services exceeded the five per cent proportion of the national budget recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Hamzeh outlines Jordan's health care services before closing of Bangkok meeting

BANGKOK (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh said Wednesday that Jordan is concentrating efforts on stopping the spread of infectious diseases, and that the Health Ministry is providing medication and health education free of charge in a bid to combat these diseases.

The minister was addressing a meeting held in Thailand to discuss the attainment of health for all people by the year 2000 — a goal set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Dr. Hamzeh told the meeting that the Health Ministry in Jordan was educating all students on protection against infectious diseases, spreading public awareness of health matters and conducting periodic medical examination to-

wards achieving the WHO goal.

The minister also outlined the Jordanian government's future plan for providing health care for all citizens and the role played by his ministry, in cooperation with the other concerned departments, to implement health care programmes.

He said that health authorities in Jordan continue to give proper attention to preventive, as well as curative medical care, for all citizens. "Through sound planning and setting up hospitals and medical centres providing primary health care services to the public, Jordan has made great achievements in assuring the health of its citizens," the minister said.

Dr. Hamzeh earlier toured a number of health centres in Thailand along with other delegates and WHO representatives taking part in the meeting.

In their final session Wednesday, the delegates endorsed a number of recommendations for achieving primary health care for all by the year 2000.

Dr. Hamzeh, who is accompanied on his visit to Thailand by a delegation representing the ministries of health, information and agriculture and other government departments, said before the meeting that Jordan will adopt its resolutions and will set up committees to follow up on their implementation.

Security Council unanimously condemns Israeli move

(Continued from page 1)

to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to Palestinian and other Arab territories, occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

2. Calls upon Israel to refrain from deporting any Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories;

3. Strongly requests Israel, the occupying power, to abide by its obligations arising from the convention;

4. Decides to keep the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, under review.

Several Arab diplomats said the Security Council resolution could be a test of U.S. sincerity about already-stated opposition to the expulsions.

"In light of the many official statements by the U.S. administration, it is sort of logical to expect a positive reaction" to the new resolution, said Riyadh H. Mansour, one of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) observers at the United Nations.

On Dec. 22, the United States abstained from voting on a Security Council resolution deploring Israel's handling of the Palestinian protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The measure passed 14-0.

Jordan, chairman of the Arab group, called for the council meeting, the first this year, and the resolution was proposed by Algeria, Argentina, Nepal, Senegal, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

After the council's unanimous vote, Herbert Okun, the U.S. representative, said Washington believed Israel's "harsh measures" were unnecessary to maintain order.

"They also serve to increase tension rather than contribute to the creation of a political atmosphere conducive to reconciliation and negotiation," he said.

The United States hoped the matter would be reconsidered by the government of Israel, he added.

In a statement given to Reuters, Mr. Dudin said in Amman: "We welcome the resolution and its unanimous passage. We are particularly happy that the United States voted for it."

"It's another important position of the international community sympathising with the Palestinian Arabs and calling on Israel to refrain from deporting them from their homeland," he said.

Later, in a statement to Radio Jordan, Mr. Dudin said Israel should re-consider its stand with regard to Middle East peace efforts and should consider withdrawing its troops from all parts of the occupied territories, in implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242.

He said Israel should accept the proposed international conference which should be held under U.N. auspices and attended by all concerned parties and the permanent members of

the Security Council to bring about a lasting solution based on total Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied since 1967.

This should be done, Mr. Dudin said, to make coexistence feasible in the Middle East region for future generations.

But Israel rejected Tuesday's resolution, and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Wednesday called the U.S. backing of it "a serious kind of deviation from the framework of our relations with the United States."

"We are sorry about it, and we will express our regret to the United States," Mr. Peres told reporters.

Avi Pazner, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman, said: "We are sorry about this U.S. vote and that the U.S. did not take into account the impact of the resolution on extremists who will be encouraged by it."

"But the vote has no bearing on relations with the U.S. It is a specific problem on which we have differences with the U.S.," Pazner told Reuters.

Israel Radio said officials had

expressed shock and disappointment at the U.S. backing for the resolution.

According to the U.S. mission, the last time the United States voted against Israel in the council was in 1981. It joined the rest of the council in endorsing resolutions condemning Israel for bombing an Iraqi nuclear reactor and for imposing Israeli law on the occupied Golan Heights.

The PLO hailed Tuesday's vote as a clear sign of world sympathy for the plight of the Palestinians. A spokesman warned the uprising would continue unless Israel changed its policies.

Egypt again urged Israel Wednesday to stop using force against residents of the occupied territories and welcomed the Security Council call.

In a statement to reporters, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said: "Israel should undertake a comprehensive review of its policy and give up practices of repression and expulsion."

"It should open a new chapter conforming to the will of the international community."

Mellor rejects Israeli criticism

(Continued from page 1)

between the people concerned and those who, under the Geneva Convention, are responsible for their protection," he said. "It is not my fault that when I was there, an incident blew up that was not of my making, and that I was dragged into the middle of it by a complaint."

In the second incident between a British politician and Israeli forces in three days, the spokesman for the British opposition, Gerald Kaufman, prevented an Israeli officer from taking away a British television crew arrested in a Palestinian camp in the West Bank Wednesday.

Brent Sadler, Middle East correspondent for Independent Television News (ITN), said the politician obtained his release and that of two colleagues after they were arrested filming a protest at Balata refugee camp near Nablus which Mr. Kaufman was visiting.

Mr. Kaufman was visiting the home of one of three Arab residents shot dead by Israeli troops during protests there on Dec. 11, Sadler said.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Responsible Editor and Director General:

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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Voting: Our national duty

THE alarming disclosure by the Ministry of Interior that only 26 per cent of eligible Jordanian voters have obtained voting cards for national elections calls for immediate remedial actions and measures by all of us in Jordan, including the government. To say the least, the registration of a mere 220,000 out of 827,000 potential voters is an ominous reflection on the state of elections in our country. One possible interpretation of this alarming situation is that the Jordanian populace does not take elections seriously; or, worse still, that they have no faith in the process of elections in their country. Something must be done, and fast, to eliminate this scepticism or indifference among the Jordanian people.

The immediate decision by the government to extend the deadline for voter registration is a step in the right direction, and the government must be commended for it. Other measures must be undertaken to complement the government's positive action. But the best way to rectify this whole dismal state of affairs is to adopt immediate legislations which would render voting not only a national right but a national duty as well. Many countries have already resorted to this type of legislation to encourage their citizens to take their national elections more seriously. One could recommend the application of penalties on all eligible voters who refrain from voting without legitimate reasons.

But perhaps more important than any such legislative tools is to introduce a "campaign of enlightenment" throughout the country to rekindle faith and reliance in voting as a way to express their views and judgements on issues, national as well as local. And there is no better place to start this process of education and enlightenment than in schools and institutions of higher education. In other words, it is high time to introduce a civics course in our secondary schools and beyond. Only through such measures and policies can we as Jordanians hope to change our noncommittal attitude towards national elections.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Iraqi role underscored

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai's praise of the Iraqi armed forces on their anniversary represents another Arab recognition of the national role played by Iraq in defence of the Arab Nation's soil. In his statement to the Iraqi News Agency, the prime minister lauded the heroic struggle of the Iraqi army and people against the Iranian aggression on the eastern flank of the Arab World. He said that this serious responsibility shouldered by Iraq was of paramount importance for the Arab Nation as a whole and displays the cohesion among the Arab countries.

As Iran continues the aggression on Iraq, Arab countries rally behind their sister Arab country and unify their ranks and pool their resources and their potential to fend off danger and aggression. Mr. Rifai's statement on the eve of the Iraqi anniversary reflects the feelings of all Arabs and was an expression of total support for our Iraqi people. This statement renews Jordan's firm support for the Iraqi people in their struggle to repel Iran's aggression and is a demonstration of true solidarity among Arabs who consider Iraq as an integral part of the Arab soil. The statement, which came as the Iranians and their allies make preparations for yet another onslaught on Arab territory and serves as a call for all Arab masses to rally behind Iraq and its people and army to deter the aggressors.

Al Dustour: World inaction must end

ISRAEL has committed a long chain of atrocities and killing of innocent people struggling for their freedom, national rights and dignity. The Israelis are clearly pursuing all forms of repression against the Arab people trying to regain their legitimate rights and supported by all peace-loving nations. Israel's mass killing of the Arab population which is being witnessed by the whole world reveals Zionism's ugly face to the world and reminds us of the old colonialist rule known for its brutal practices against the indigenous population. Israel is pursuing its policy as the world watches and condemns its atrocities and despite the worldwide condemnation of its criminal actions. We realise that Israel's policies are causing this racist state to become totally isolated from the world community but we also believe that leaving the Israelis to carry on their criminal actions unhindered will no doubt encourage them to enlarge the circle of their crime and commit even more heinous and brutal actions. Therefore it is incumbent upon those countries that have been providing Israel with weapons and means of perpetuating their occupation of Arab land to take action in cooperation with the United Nations designed to stop such atrocities.

Sawat Al Shaab: U.N. faces task of peace

JORDAN's request for a U.N. Security Council meeting to discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territory is actually a request to the international community to shoulder its humanitarian responsibility and put an end to Israel's atrocities. Jordan's initiative stems from its realisation of the gravity of the situation and the need to find an end to the sufferings of the Arab people under Israeli rule. Exposing Israel's atrocities to the whole world through the Security Council is a duty that Jordan takes in its drive to seek an end to occupation, and it is now up to the world community and the Security Council to find a proper measure for stemming Israel's acts of repression and terrorism against the innocent civilians.

The Security Council ought to establish peace in the Middle East region through an international conference which Israel is now rejecting.

Rebels strain Ethiopia's lifeline

The relief line supplying food to Ethiopia's famine-stricken peasants is stretched tight and in danger of breaking. Todd Shields, who has toured the area and spoken to victims and aid officials, reports:

THE SPECTACULAR but barren highlands of northern Ethiopia are busy with movement on a scale seen only too recently. In spite of efforts to beat the famine of 1985-86, hundreds of thousands of peasants, their harvest a failure, have resumed their long marches for food.

The great cargo planes are back too, kicking up long plumes of dust from the gravel airstrip at Mekelle as they bring grain to the feeding station at this town and for other centres in central Tigray. The supply line is stretched tight and in danger of breaking.

Neither planes nor marches should be needed to feed the two million to three million people threatened with starvation in Tigray and neighbouring Eritrea since the July and August rains failed. But in the last three or four months, rebels in both provinces have intensified their running war with the government and made some roads impassable for grain convoys. The relief effort, already short of trucks, has been forced to resort to expensive airlifts and has no means to carry food to remote villages.

The problem is especially acute in central Tigray which, according to David Morton, country director for the United Nations World Food Programme, is "feeding hand to mouth."

The supply road into the region, which runs about 300 kilometres south from warehouses in Asmara, is open up to 13 days a month and the average one-way trip takes up to five days.

But even that erratic schedule is frequently disrupted, notably by an attack on October 23 by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) which destroyed 23 trucks in a supply convoy. There have been no such attacks since, but the tenuous security of the road means that most of central Tigray's grain is now shipped from Asmara by C-130 Hercules and three Soviet Antonov transport planes. Three Hercules backed by Western funds are operating now, with a fourth to join the effort soon.

The seven planes can carry up

to 13,000 tonnes a month — more than the Mekelle region's requirement of about 8,500 tonnes a month. The surplus will build up stocks depleted while the relief effort relied on uncertain road shipments and awaited the late-November advent of the airlift.

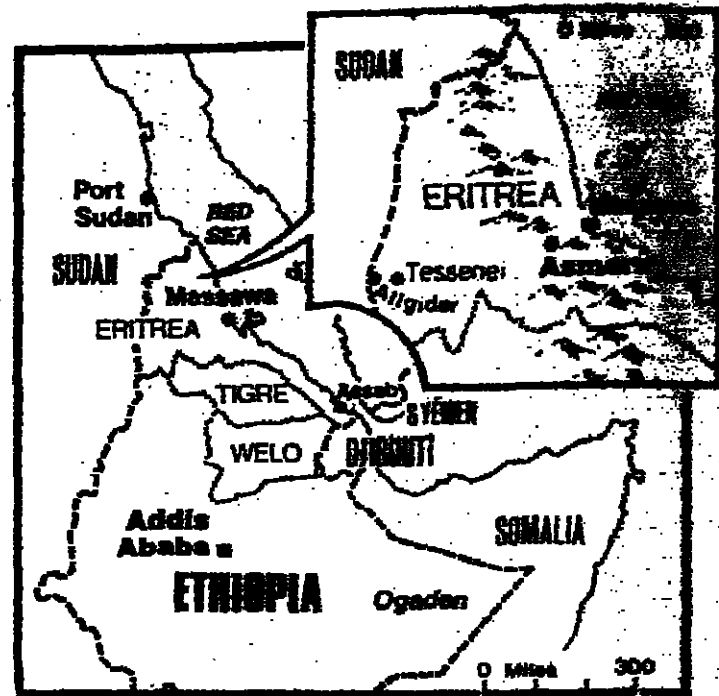
Meanwhile, the region's subsistence farmers have been pushed closer to starvation. Hailu Taka and his family of seven walked for four hours to reach Wukro feeding station, where about 6,000 people receive grain each day. On a small plain surrounded by hills, a half-dozen stacks of 50 kilogramme grain bags sat in a long row, with a distribution worker standing atop each pile. Peasant families massed on the far side of the piles, as groups of 10 to 15 were called forward to receive their ration. Hailu sat with his ration, waiting in the fading evening sun to begin the trip back home. He said his family last ate the day before and that he had sold his four oxen and 20 sheep to buy food. Animal prices had dropped as food became more scarce, he said.

Mass starvation has been avoided so far. Relief workers say

that malnutrition levels are about normal for this time of year, and the families streaming into the distribution centres are animated. But officials in Addis Ababa give warning of severe supply problems ahead, as food runs out in areas with less disastrous harvests. Eritrea suffered 100 per cent crop failure and in Tigray 80 to 100 per cent of the harvest was lost over most of the province.

The government estimates that 1.05 million tonnes of food are needed next year to feed 5.2 million people at risk in Eritrea, Tigray and other provinces — a figure most donors consider conservative. Yet, even the government estimate calls for distribution of more than 80,000 tonnes of food each month. It is a tall order. That level was reached only during two months of the last massive relief effort, which delivered 1.5 million tonnes of food in two years of concerted effort.

Ethiopia's primitive infrastructure is one problem; another is interruptions in the flow of supplies. Relief officials say they now have enough food pledged — 272,000 tonnes — to last until the end of April. It takes about five



The Horn of Africa

months for food to arrive after being pledged, so more pledges must be made within weeks to avoid a break in supplies in late April or early May. Should such a break occur, relief officials fear, peasants would walk to the distribution centres, find no food there and stay to await deliveries. That would recreate the massive camps of the 1984-85 famine, where communicable diseases

raged, killing almost as many as did starvation.

"It's right on the edge," said Frederick Machmer, head of Ethiopian operations for the U.S. Agency for International Development, the relief arm of the U.S. government. "Things have to go very smoothly every day and every week to keep things from sliding." — Financial Times feature.

Lawyers and cartographers replace diplomats in bid for peace in Chad

By Claude Regier

Reuter

ABIDJAN — Lawyers, translators and cartographers are sifting through piles of dusty documents in Africa's latest effort to settle the dispute between Chad and Libya over the desert border region known as the Aouzou Strip.

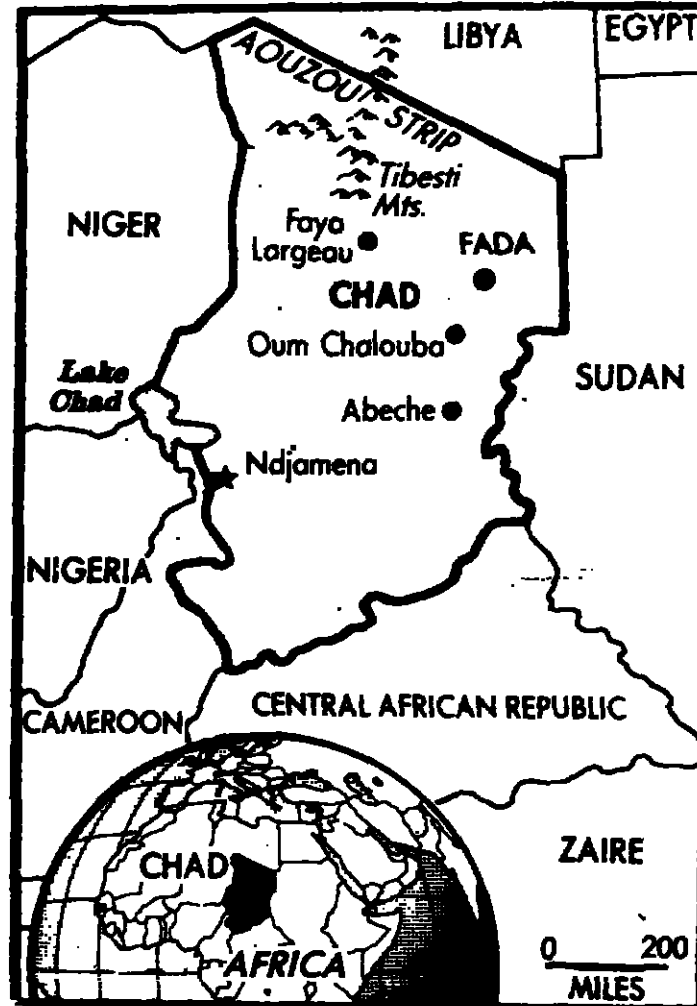
But African diplomats say the experts face a seemingly impossible task and know they cannot placate both countries which, in the meantime, are building up their military strength in anticipation of further fighting for control of the 110,000-square km strip.

After years of intermittent fighting, the guns have been mainly silent for a record three months along the Chad-Libya border since the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) arranged a truce in September.

The diplomats say the truce has eased pressure on the experts who have gathered in the Gabon capital, Libreville, to examine the masses of documents which each side hopes will establish its right to the strip.

Chad and Libya lost hundreds of men in the four-week battle for possession of Aouzou, which has no proven mineral or other resources, before accepting the ceasefire on September 15 in order to let experts resolve the issue.

If they keep to schedule, they were expected to finish their work early January and present their findings to foreign ministers of the six African nations they represent at a special meeting planned in Libreville on January



7. That would set the scene for a summit meeting between Chad's President Hissene Habre and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, a week later.

The six states — Algeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Mozambi-

Chairman Kenneth Kaunda persuaded Chad and Libya to accept the truce.

By then, Aouzou town, the strip's administrative capital, had changed hands twice in some of the heaviest reported fighting to date.

Legal experts, translators and cartographers have been working under Chairman Pambou Tchoundza, one of Bongo's top foreign policy advisers. Before them are maps and dusty documents, many in Italian, Arabic and Turkish.

Libya's case rests largely on a pre-World War II treaty between Italy and France, at that time the colonial rulers of the two countries. But the treaty was never ratified and Chad took control of Aouzou when it gained independence from France in 1960.

Chad argues that territorial borders inherited from the colonial era should not be modified, a sacrosanct OAU principle.

But reliable diplomatic sources say that Libya has laid before the experts conclusive evidence that the late Chadian president, Ngarta Tombalbaye, ceded Aouzou to Libya in a secret deal in 1973.

Whichever way the experts rule, neither country has pledged to abide by the decision and both are busy rearming, diplomatic sources said.

They said Libya had been recruiting fighters of various Arab nationalities, including Lebanese Druze fighters.

Chad has taken delivery of U.S. Stinger anti-aircraft missiles which Washington promised in November to deliver, according to diplomats in N'jamena.

Carlucci and Brutents hold talks in Bahrain and Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

"There is no one who doubts that America has been a peacemaker... and also got the European powers to take an active role... reinforcing international law" in the Gulf, he told the AP.

Mr. Carlucci was scheduled to head on Thursday for Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, a ranking Soviet official conferred Wednesday with Kuwaiti leaders on the Iran-Iraq war, hard on the heels of the talks which Mr. Carlucci had on the same issue a day earlier.

Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the International Relations Bureau of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, first met with the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to whom he handed a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Brutents later conferred with Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdul-Jah Al Sabah and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The contents of Mr. Gorbachev's message were not disclosed, but Mr. Brutents has been in Syria and Egypt to report to their leaders on the outcome of last month's superpower summit in Washington between Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Reagan.

Upon arrival in Kuwait late Tuesday, Mr. Brutents told reporters he would be briefing Kuwaiti leaders on the outcome of the summit and would also exchange views on the Gulf situa-

tion. Mr. Brutents stressed that "one of the most important objectives of Soviet policy in the region" was to bring the Iran-Iraq war to a halt.

Moscow, he said, had "agreed to discuss a follow-up resolution" to the one passed by the U.N. Security Council last July 20 demanding a ceasefire to the Iran-Iraq hostilities, and yet to be implemented.

Mr. Brutents said the follow-up resolution would give the U.N. secretary-general "additional powers to carry out his mission" in pushing through the ceasefire, but he stopped short of picking up the U.S. demand that the follow-up include an arms embargo against Iran.

"The Soviet Union believes that the mission of the U.N. secretary-general has not been completed yet," Mr. Brutents said.

Mr. Brutents defended his country's proposal for the setting up of a U.N. naval force to ensure protection of international navigation in the Gulf, saying "the proposal will reflect positively on the situation in the Gulf and does not have negative aspects to which the pressure of the U.S. fleet gives rise."

Mr. Carlucci, addressing a news conference Tuesday at the end of day-long meetings with Kuwaiti officials, said the U.N. force idea was one "beset with difficulties" and the Soviet proposal as "very vague and in-

appropriate at this stage."

U.S. officials said the government may soon begin reducing the number of warships assigned to the Gulf because the U.S. Navy has more ships than it needs to safely escort reflagged Kuwaiti tankers.

The government sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Tuesday that President Ronald Reagan's administration was not planning any change in its basic commitment to protect commercial ships in the Gulf flying the U.S. flag.

"Rather, the issue is tailoring your force to the job at hand now that you've had some experience," one official said. "We are not changing the mission, nor are we reducing our commitment."

The sources also said the move to reduce the size of the U.S. fleet in the area was spawned in part by the high cost of operating there. The navy has previously said it is spending roughly \$20 million a month above its normal operating expenses to station extra warships in the region.

One official said Tuesday the first change in "force structure" would occur "shortly."

In Baghdad, President Hussein said Wednesday Iraq would accept no change in the U.N. resolution, would crush any Iranian offensive, and demanded sanctions be imposed on Tehran.

Addressing the nation on the Iraqi army's 67th anniversary, President Hussein said: "The Iranians have once again

begun to beat the drums, threatening to launch a new aggression... Iraq is determined to crush the aggression and make the Iranian forces taste a defeat which they have never tasted during the previous years of the war."

Reports from Baghdad and Gulf-based diplomats say Iran has massed more than 250,000 troops for a new offensive on the southern port city of Basra, with thousands more along the length of the war front.

President Hussein described the last major offensive on Basra in December, 1986 as the biggest military aggression in the seven-year long war, for which the enemy had massed more than 300,000 men.

"The Iranian goal of last year's offensive was to occupy Basra and establish a hireling state to continue the war and aggression against Iraq and force hegemony on the Arab Gulf region," he said.

Iraq would continue fighting till Iran submits to the will of right, accepts a "just peace and basis of dealing among states in the modern history," he said.

The Iraqi leader described the results of last November's Amman Arab summit as "a new form in the common Arab action," which had reaffirmed the depth and correctness of the Arab nationalist line.

President Hussein called on the Arab states to "abide by the Amman summit spirit and transform its results into real facts."

Democracy under assault in Latin America and Caribbean

By Bernd Debusman

Reuter

MEXICO — In Haiti, roving gangs of soldiers and paramilitary thugs go on a killing spree to break up the first democratic elections in 30 years. Mission accomplished: the ballot is postponed.

In Ecuador, air force commandos seize the president, put a gun at his head and demand the release of a dissident officer awaiting trial for munition. Request granted.

In Argentina, infantry units rebel, demanding an end to human rights trials and the dismissal of the army chief of staff. He steps down, the government limits the trials.

In Colombia, professional killers murder every judge who extradites a cocaine trafficker to the United States. The supreme court annuls the U.S.-Colombian extradition treaty.

In Peru, a court issues orders to suspend the planned nationalisation of banks. The government uses tanks, tear-gas, and paramilitary police to take over the banks by force.

Over the past year, democracy took hard knocks in the Caribbean and Latin America, put to the test by the military, billionaire drug lords, extremist guerrillas — and civilian politicians who set their own rules for the democratic game.

"As we have seen again in 1987, there are limits to the full exercise of parliamentary democracy in a region where authoritarian leadership has long traditions," said a European diplomat and specialist on Latin affairs.

Since 1979, nine countries in the region have switched from military dictatorships to democracy: Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Uruguay and Brazil. Panama adopted the trappings of democracy but effectively remained under military rule.

In Nicaragua and Haiti, dictators were toppled but promises of freedom remain unfulfilled.

Haiti provided a gruesome case in point. Three decades of Duvalier family rule ended in February, 1986, when popular protest forced Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier to flee.

His military successor, General Henri Namphy, promised free elections by November 1987. But he did not move decisively against Duvalier loyalists in the army or members of the dictator's secret police, the Tontons Macoute.

On election day, Nov. 29, 1987, army elements and gunmen in civilian clothes joined an orgy of violence against Haitians queuing to cast their votes. At least 37 died, some hacked to pieces by machete, and elections were postponed.

While black, Creole-speaking Haiti is not typical of Latin America, military forces in much of the region share values which pose a latent threat to the fledgling democracies.

With few exceptions, the deeply conservative, fiercely anti-com-

munist and staunchly nationalist Latin American military men deny the repression, torture and killing under military-run governments was wrong.

Many officers regard themselves as saviours of their nations from the evils of communism and say that the ends justified whatever means they employed.

"In Argentina, as elsewhere in Latin America, the armed forces remain convinced they were right," said Emilio Mignone, a prominent Buenos Aires lawyer and expert on the excesses of the "dirty war" against Argentine leftists.

"The military have not changed with the advent of democracy. They are the same men, with the same ideas," he added.

It was resentment over what they considered unfair treatment by President Raul Alfonsin's government which caused military revolts over Easter 1987.

The uprising led to legislative limits on trials of military men involved in the killing of some 9,000 people during the dirty war.

Eight months after the revolt, the Argentine navy threatened another rebellion unless Alfonsin agreed to the promotion of an officer accused of human rights abuses. The officer, Alfredo Astiz, was duly promoted.

Elsewhere in Latin America, elected leaders made concessions to the armed forces in Guatemala, El Salvador, Uruguay and Peru, where 4,000 police stormed university campuses in an unprecedented action aimed at rooting out student sympathisers of left-wing guerrillas.

Even where established traditions of freedom exist, democracy is being put to tough tests.

Colombia, for instance, has enjoyed democratic government through most of this century. Its media are widely considered the best in the region. Parliamentary life is vibrant.

Yet Colombian democracy is under immense strain, under assault from ruthless drug lords, guerrilla forces which have been active for more than a quarter century, and right-wing hit squads who are systematically murdering leftists.

The most prominent victim in 1987 was Jaime Pardo Leal, leader of the Patriotic Union (UP). He was the latest of some 500 UP activists murdered since the party was formed in 1985.

Political killings are only one ingredient in widespread violence which claimed around 11,000 victims in 1986.

Over the past three years, assassins paid by cocaine traffickers killed a justice minister and more than 50 judges. As far as drug-related crime is concerned, Colombia's justice system has been intimidated to the point of paralysis.

On Dec. 30, a Bogota judge released Jorge Luis Ochoa. He walked to freedom a month after Colombian drug lords threatened a "blood bath" if he were handed to the United States, which has offered a \$500,000 reward for his capture.



Randa Habibs Corner

A burning issue

IN SUMMER fires break out in open fields outside our homes, but in winter the danger is greater as most fires occur within our walls. House fires in winter are mostly caused by gasoline or electric heaters and often by electricity short-circuits because of rain water on power cables.

It is mandatory under the civil defence code that owners of apartment and office buildings, factories and shops keep fire extinguishers handy. But private homes are not compelled by law, although the Civil Defence Department urges citizens to take the same preventive measures.

You often hear that such safety rules are not followed even in places where fire extinguishers are obligatory by law. There are some places where fire extinguishers are either non-existent or non-functional. Sometimes, when they are found to be operational, it is quite a task to find them when needed.

Often people do not like to have their fire extinguishers in obvious places where the dreary-looking equipment could spoil the setting. So, they literally hide them in basements or store rooms where they are virtually useless in times of emergency.

At home, one never knows how or when a fire could break out, no matter how careful we may be. Surely, we do not need a law imposed on us in order to protect our own lives and property. Or do we?

I wonder what those who do not keep fire extinguishers at home will do in case of a fire. As for those who do have them, are they sure they know how to use them in case of emergency? And if they do know how to use them, are they sure the fire extinguishers are in working order?

These are important questions we need to ask ourselves. What is at stake is too important to take lightly.

Now please excuse me, I smell something burning!

...God created woman and man ruled: 'Let her not work'

By Nermeen Murad

AMMAN — "You can't have both," an educated young man told a female coworker at a cocktail party held in one of Amman's posh areas. They were having a debate on whether women can get married and continue to compete professionally. The young man was obviously doubtful of the feasibility of such an undertaking.

The man spoke of "a dividing line" between working women and "homemakers," and of "the difficulties involved in maintaining both — your job and your husband."

But this is not only because men in Jordan do not like a working woman, especially if that woman happened to be their wife, daughter or sister. It is often heard that single working women feel their professional tendencies are an obstacle in the way of their potential marriage, that is, an obstacle in the way to a normal life.

So, the old war between progressive reasoning and established tradition continues unabated, often taking unbelievable forms and dimensions.

While economic imperatives and education may make it difficult for many men to ignore the importance of a working woman in society, the same men appear to be doubtful whether the role of a woman as a "breadwinner" is something that befits a daughter, a wife or a mother.

A limited survey conducted by the Jordan Times among young, single and married working men and women, this problem was put into focus. The prominent theme that emerged from the survey underlined a growing frustration among young women from male attitudes towards professional women.

Though men differ to a certain degree in their attitude on the subject, the majority seems to be against having women on an equal footing with men in most of the professions. Men who argue against the idea of working women claim that such a woman could not reconcile her duties as a mother or housewife and do well in her job. Most Jordanian men would not employ a woman, citing her marriage or pregnancy as a problem that would adversely affect her productivity at work.

Noor, an architect, believes that one day there will come a man — a "Mr. Perfect" — who will appreciate her need to work. "I am considered too independent by many, but one man will finally come who understands me and understands my work," Noor said.

The fears that Noor may remain a single as long as she insists on keeping her job is one she acquired through mixing with people who are mostly educated and in her work environment. She says that although educated, these men balked at the idea of a woman engineer or a woman boss.

Lina, who works in a managerial office, seemed to care less about the whole subject.

"Why is everyone so concerned about relationships and mar-

riage," she asked. "Life without men is satisfying; you don't have to worry about someone telling you what to do all the time."

She added that "men are not even worth the time you waste thinking about them; I am not even going to sit and analyse why things are turning out the way they are. It is their loss, not mine."

Lina's statements, which reveal an amount of understandable frustration with men's attitude, is however shared by few other women. The question of marriage and settling down with children remains the predominant subject on women's minds though to varying degrees.

Most women, including those who agree with Lina, concede that their work has delayed if not obstructed their marriage.

But Lina continues on a note of frustration and defiance: "I am successful in my job, I receive appreciation from men where it hurts them most to give it, — in work."

A 50-year-old woman, with three daughters expressed her views on the subject based on her daughters' experiences. This woman, who asked not to be named, said her 18-year-old daughter "wanted to get married right after school. My husband and I were against it because we wanted her to continue her education, but she insisted and finally we were forced to accept the situation. Now, that I look at my (second) daughter who was unable to find an understanding husband, I sometimes wonder whether we made a mistake trying to stop our first daughter."

"I am not saying that marriage is everything, but in our society if she remains unmarried she will find herself alone," added the mother.

Men interviewed by the Jordan Times had two different reactions to the question put to them: the first group dodged the issue until they were cornered with a straight question and then looked at things rationally. They tried, not without some effort, to express their admission to women's right to work, but their statements were, nevertheless, interspersed by misgivings about the feasibility of having Jordanian women work.

The other group came out clearly with defined impressions of what they expected of marriage in general and how a wife would fit into their plans. Most of them wanted their wives to work but in limited hours, leaving ample time for their duties towards their children and and above all, husband.

"My daughter is working as a doctor and I am proud of her and I have been supportive of her decisions all along," said Khalil, a middle aged doctor.

Salam, his daughter, though admitting that her father was supportive of her decision to work, says he was not as liberal when it came to her civil status. "Now that I am 27 years old," she said, "he is worried that as a result of my independence through work, men will think twice before tak-

ing the risk of proposing to me."

According to Salam, the argument that the right man for her would be one who would support most of her decisions, whether on the work or social levels, seems irrelevant to her father.

Her father's position on the subject is in fact not without influence from the society and the prevailing attitude.

Sa'ad, a young journalist, talked of his fears that "given freedom, women are bound to abuse it."

"Not only did he express his apprehension at being equal to a woman, he also talked out as if from a position of authority. He used words such as "allowing" and "giving" freedom to women — not a rare attitude in Jordan."

This sense of righteousness is exactly what was most resented by women interviewed.

"They talk about giving freedom to women as if it is theirs to give," said a young nurse. "Men seem to forget that God gave equal freedom to both men and women and that this equality is not theirs to give."

Some men, deviated from what some women described as the "macho image complex" and argued for and against working women. Their arguments reflected fears that women "could" carry the frenzy of feminism too far, leaving their children to the care of paid servants and carrying out their own "social contacts" through work which would interfere with their married life.

"The economic situation in the Arab World and the women's level of awareness call for measures towards allowing for more working women or at least more educated women," said a 28-year-old officer in the Jordanian army. He added that an educated working woman not only helps in the general economic standing of a family at large but is also an important prerequisite for the education and well-being of the children.

Sana, a married working woman, discussed her views on the subject and her husband's reaction to her work. "An educated woman would only marry an educated man," and therefore, she said, "I don't think that a working woman would clash with her husband in whether she works or not."

In her situation, she said, "I don't need to work because my husband supports the family. But, he insists that I continue working in order to keep myself busy and to have consistent mental stimulation so that I am happy with myself and therefore with him and my children."

However, she said, "if too many working hours are spent and not enough time at home, he would remind me that I must keep a fair balance between work and the family. This makes sense if one wants a happy home and happy children."

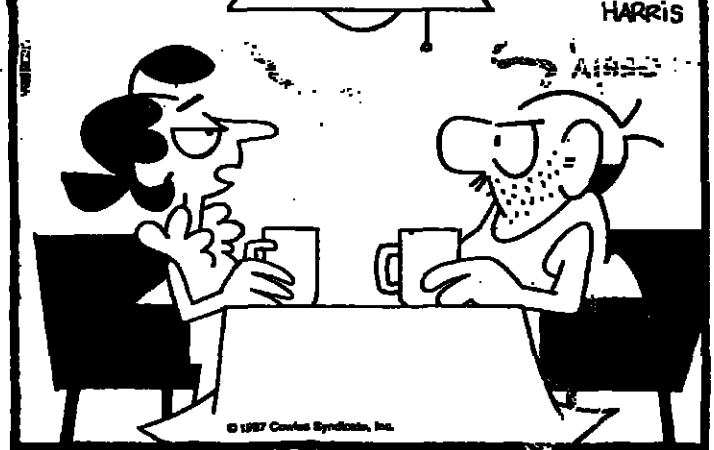
Her husband, Mohammad, agreed with her and stressed that it would be "stupid" for Jordan to "waste" half of national human resources i.e. women. But he added that there should be well



The questions are: Can she work without ruining this precious moment? How can he ignore it?

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I have to work late tonight. I hired old Mrs. Murdock to baby-sit you until I get home."

studied motives for work.

"Women should not want to work just because their friends do," he said. "If for example, the woman does not need to work for monetary reasons, then she should do some voluntary work which would benefit society at large, rather than taking a low-paying unsatisfying job."

Mohammad also upheld the argument that work should not interfere with the welfare of the family at large because "producing intelligent, happy and productive human beings out of the children remains the most important achievement of the female race."

Walid, a lawyer, stressed the point of growing economic strains on a family but at the same time he maintained that woman's need for a job goes beyond economics.

"It will give a woman a more solid feeling of partnership in marriage since she will not feel that she is just a maid but an equal provider," he explained.

"As a woman develops new interests through work, she becomes a more interesting partner."

He also discussed the benefits for the husband. "She will have her own interest and therefore she will not become a nagging woman out of boredom."

His only reservation was about work not overtaking other family responsibilities. "It should not be at the expense of the children; as long as there are infants at home she should be with them but once they go to school then she should look for a job."

Rabah, a public relations officer and a news announcer, stressed men's dilemma over this matter. "They do not know what they really want. Rationally, they would like to marry an educated woman, but when it really comes down to making a decision, they feel threatened by the independence of an educated woman."

"Ah, educated woman," she added, "always has the option of getting out of her marriage if it doesn't work. Her economic independence leaves the man with the feeling that he will not be able to get away with any behaviour he wants to follow."

She said there was a growing trend among young men to marry 18-year-old girls who are just out of high school. "They marry them out of a conviction that they are easier to handle, with no predetermined ideas and convictions. The truth is that they are more difficult because they have not yet gained the maturity of reasoning which comes with age, education and interaction through work."

But Rabah's opinions fell short of total professionalism for married women who have young children at home. "A woman's main role in society remains at home. So, when there are children she should remain with them, directing and loving them because she will be helping form a new generation which would have to integrate with the rest of society."

U.S.-Soviet mission to Mars premature, but possible

By Jon Schaffer

WASHINGTON — U.S. space officials say they are actively pursuing cooperative activities with the Soviet Union and that a joint mission to Mars is possible, but that "it is premature to commit to that" right now.

"We look forward to cooperating with the Soviet Union across the board in space, where it makes sense," Dr. Noel Hinners, chief scientist for the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said December 11. "We anticipate that a Mars mission would be very expensive. It might make sense at the right time and the right political atmosphere to consider a joint mission to Mars with the Soviet Union and with other international partners."

Appearing on the U.S. Information Agency's "Worldnet," a global satellite network interview programme, Hinners said that the United States should not rush into a joint Mars mission. But he added that the United States also doesn't view a manned presence on Mars "as a race, where we are trying to beat the other guy."

He said that while a mission to Mars is alluring, a permanent base on the moon might be a more practical near-term objective.

"Most of us view the moon as a waystation to Mars exploration, a place in addition to the space station, to test out long-term surface habitability and livability, testing out some of the scientific techniques that one will want to use on the surface of Mars," Hinners said.

Andrew Stofan, deputy administrator of NASA for the space station, said on the same programme that the cost of the space station will be almost double first estimates, or more than \$14 billion. It would be done in phases to spread out the cost, he said.

Under current plans, the space station will be built by mid-1994, with a permanent manned presence planned for 1996 and a fully operational space station by the year 1997.

Both Hinners and Stofan stressed the need for Congress to come forward with adequate funds to keep the space station programme going.

"I feel confident, and everything I hear from Congress is there is no intention whatsoever, or no desire, to give NASA a budget so low we would be unable to continue the space station programme," Stofan said.

Stofan noted the recent agreement with Canada on their participation in the space station project and expected agreement with the Japanese, but said no agreement has yet been reached with the European Space Agency.

He warned that design decisions, the assembly sequence decisions and other actions would proceed with or without European cooperation.

"If they came on six months or a year from now," Stofan said, "there would be a lot of decisions that would have been made that may affect their hardware... It is to the great advantage of the Europeans especially to be on-board when the programmes start so they have a say in the decision-making process."

Hinners said that several escape systems are currently being tested to assist shuttle passengers in the case of an emergency and that it is feasible to get one of these escape systems in place in one of the early shuttle flights, expected to resume in June 1988 — U.S. Information Agency.

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Merle snatches 1st win of Alpine Skiing Circuit

TIGNES, France (AP) — France's Carole Merle won the giant slalom skiing race Wednesday for her first victory on the World Cup of Alpine Skiing Circuit.

Merle had a combined time of 2 minutes, 27.96 seconds for the two runs.

Switzerland's Maria Walliser came in second with a time of 2:28.62. First-run leader, Blanca Fernandez Ochoa of Spain was third edging France's Catherine Quittet, by 0.01 seconds, 2:28.63 to 2:28.64.

Switzerland's Michela Figini, despite a 14th-place finish, still leads the overall World Cup standings with 106 points.

Merle, who broke an ankle last year and just returned to racing last December, is a 23-year-old

from Super Sauze. After a third on the first run, she had the second best time on the second run.

"Today's race was more difficult than yesterday," Merle said. "I couldn't see very well. I expected to come in third again."

Walliser, the two-time World Cup overall, was seventh in the morning then came back in the afternoon with the third-best clocking.

Fernandez Ochoa had only the 12th best time in the afternoon, also complaining about the weather, which was cold, cloudy

and windy on a course that dropped 340 metres.

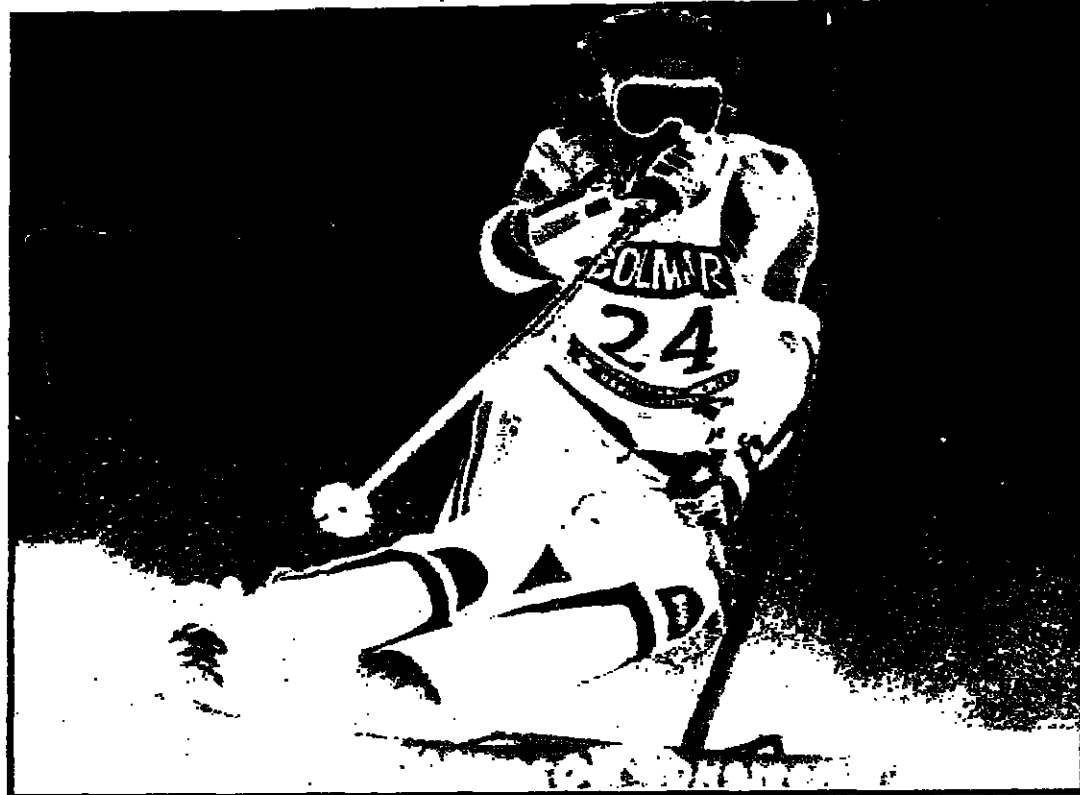
"The visibility wasn't too good on the top part. I wasn't very good on the flat section. Then I made some mistakes on the bottom and almost fell," Fernandez Ochoa said.

The Spanish skier just edged out Quittet for third.

Quittet is the leader of the French skiing revival and took the lead in the giant slalom standings with 57 points, just a point ahead of Vreni Schneider of Switzerland.

Schneider, who won Tuesday's race, came in fifth with a time of 2:28.90. Austrians Sigrid Wolf and Anita Wachter followed in sixth and seventh.

Wachter has the top time in the second heat



One of the European champions dances his way around the slalom posts (file photo)

Forget to play in Sanctuary tourney

GOLD COAST, Australia (AP) — Frenchman Guy Forget was named Wednesday as a last-minute replacement for Swede Joakim Nystrom in the six-man Sanctuary Cove Exhibition Tournament, which begins Thursday at the New Australian Resort Complex.

Nystrom withdrew from the event late Tuesday, citing illness. Forget, 23-year-old left-hander ranked 54th in the world, will meet American Paul Amacone in the first round of Yugoslav Slobodan Zivonjovic scheduled to face New Zealander Kelly Evernden.

Top-ranked Ivan Lendl and Frenchman Yannick Noah, the top two seeds, have first-round byes and will play their first matches on Friday.

The final is slated for Saturday. The exhibition, for which the prize money has not been revealed, will be played on a synthetic rebounded surface.

The same surface will be used for the \$1.9-million Australian Open, which begins Monday at Flinders Park in Melbourne.

The tennis tournament is part of a five-day series of events to mark the opening of the resort 50 miles south of Brisbane.

Also featured is an exhibition Friday between Americans Martina Navratilova, ranked second in the world, and Chris Evert, ranked third.

Tyson signs to fight 6 times for \$26.5m

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (Agencies) — Mike Tyson has shown up in a suit and tie for a news conference, but Larry Holmes didn't show up at all.

Don King, promoter of Tyson's undisputed heavyweight title defence Jan. 22 against the former champion, had a telephone hookup with Holmes' office in Pennsylvania Tuesday.

However, Holmes did not speak. Instead, Dick Lovell, a Holmes employee, read a statement which said: "He's training very hard and taking the fight very seriously. Any and all questions will be answered Jan. 22."

"I'm sorry Larry Holmes didn't show," said Tyson, 21. "It's probably unprofessional of him. I think he's trying to psych me out. I believe in his mind he thinks he can beat me, but I'm the best

fighter in the world. I don't think he could have beaten me at his best."

Holmes, 38, was upset when Tyson refused to shake hands with him at a news conference Dec. 1 at New York.

"If he lets anything like that upset him, then I don't think he's as great a champion as he thought he was," Tyson said. "He said derogatory things about me, that I was a dirty fighter. Then he wanted to fight it."

Tyson will be paid \$26.5 million for defending his title six times in the next 12 months, co-manager Bill Cayton said.

Cayton said American Cable Television network Home Box Office (HBO) will put up the money for the fights, beginning with Tyson's defence on Jan. 22

in Atlantic City against former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes.

Cayton emphasised that with the exception of the Holmes fight, all dates and opponents are tentative.

He said Tyson's second defence under the deal is tentatively set against fellow-American Tony Tubbs on March 21 in Tokyo.

The third bout is tentatively scheduled against Briton Frank Bruno in London on June 4 or 11th. A fourth defence is being considered against Francesco Damiani in Milan in early September.

The other two opponents in the series, dependent upon Tyson (31-0) remaining undefeated, have not been decided, Cayton said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Iraqi team fined for referee incident

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — The Iraq Soccer Association (ISA) has been fined 20,000 Swiss francs (\$15,000) after its team tried to attack the referee of an Olympic qualifying match against Kuwait last month, the world soccer authority FIFA said Wednesday. A FIFA committee also warned Iraq it will be barred from the Olympic preliminary tournament if similar events occur in the future. After the end of the Dec. 18 game, which host Kuwait won 2-1, security guards had to protect referee Nasaden Chandra of Singapore from physical attack by Iraqi team members, FIFA said. An investigation is to determine those responsible for the incident and the case will then be submitted to FIFA's executive committee for possible further action. Iraq is Kuwait's main rival in the final round of the West Asia qualifying group, whose winner qualifies for the Olympics later this year. Kuwait currently leads with six points in four games while Iraq has four points from four games. Saudi Arabia and Qatar, the other group members, have three points each.

Ex-boxer opts for judge in sex trial

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (R) — Former heavyweight champion Trevor Berbick elected trial by judge in county court on Tuesday on a charge of sexual assault. Provincial court judge Hughes Randall adjourned the case to set a date for a preliminary hearing, a court official said. Berbick, 35, a Jamaican-born Canadian, briefly held the World Boxing Council (WBC) title before losing it to Mike Tyson in November 1986. He was charged last Nov. 26 with sexually assaulting a young woman in Halifax in August 1985. Outside court Berbick, who could have demanded a jury trial, maintained his innocence. "I'm not guilty and I guess we'll just take it from there," he told reporters. Berbick's Canadian heavyweight title went to Willie de Wit after it was stripped from him for not defending it. His last fight, which raised his professional record to 37-4, was a unanimous 10-round decision in Halifax last Nov. 24 over Bobby Evans of Texas.

American skippers take lead event

MELBOURNE (R) — David Curtis won a close-fought battle with fellow-American John Kosteki to take the first race in the World Soling Championship on Wednesday. Curtis, in Whip, crossed the line at the end of the 14.6 mile race nine seconds ahead of title favourite Kosteki's Limping Gypsy. Australian Bobby Wilmut in square goal was one minute 32 seconds behind in third place. In southerly winds of 14 knots and on a slight swell, Curtis recovered from a bad start to take the lead after the first beat, a lead he never lost. The second race in the series, which some competitors are using as preparation for the summer Olympics, takes place on Thursday.

Racer falls out with broken neck

TAMANRASSET, Algeria (R) — Triple world moto-cross champion Andrei Malherbe has a suspected broken neck after falling heavily from his works Yamaha on the sixth day of the Paris-Dakar Rally. Malherbe is awaiting an air ambulance to fly him to Paris from the southern Algerian town of Tamanrasset for specialist medical treatment. The Belgian rider was lying ninth in the rally's motor bike section.

Soviet Union asked to look into drug claim

LONDON (R) — The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) will ask the Soviet Union to investigate a claim that a Soviet Olympic champion gave advice to British athletes on taking drugs, the federation said on Wednesday. "It is our duty to inform the Russian athletics federation of the claim and ask if there is any substance in it," IAAF Secretary John Holt said. British hammer thrower Martin Girvan claimed in a newspaper interview this week that Yuri Sedykh, the Olympic hammer champion in 1976 and 1980, gave details of his drug intake while on a lecture tour of Britain two years ago.

NBA ROUNDUP

Bulls outpace Pacers; Warriors beat Spurs

NEW YORK (AP) — Bernard King scored 15 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter and Moses Malone had 26 points as Washington snapped a five-game losing streak by defeating the New Jersey Nets 101-97.

In other National Basketball Association (NBA) games on Tuesday Phoenix downed New York 100-95; Chicago beat Indiana 93-77; Milwaukee iced the Los Angeles Clippers 98-82; Atlanta took an 81-71 victory over Detroit; Golden State won a 129-119 shootout with San Antonio and Portland nailed Seattle 126-114.

The Bulls' victory started new coach Wes Unseld off with a winning record. He replaced the fired Kevin Loughery.

Mike Gminski scored 23 points for New Jersey, which lost its 12th straight on the road this season. Otis Birdsong added 17. Walter Davis scored seven of his 22 points in the final 3:38, including the go-ahead basket with 1:17 left, to lead the Phoenix Suns to a 100-95 victory over the New York Knicks. Sidney Green paced New York with 17 points and 18 rebounds, both season highs.

Michael Jordan scored 31 points and Chicago's stifling de-

fence turned back the poor-shooting Indiana Pacers 93-77 to give the Bulls their second straight victory. Steve Stipanovich paced Indiana with 20 points.

Terry Cummings scored 20 points and the Milwaukee Bucks held off a late rally to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 98-82. Mike Woodson had 19 points for the Clippers, who suffered their seventh straight loss.

Cliff Levingston had 15 points and 14 rebounds and Atlanta held the Pistons to their lowest scoring total in Detroit's 31-year history as the Hawks posted an 81-71 victory. The Pistons scored only once in the final 5:17. Isiah Thomas led Detroit with 18 points.

Terry Teague came off the bench to score 23 points to help the Golden State Warriors post only their fifth victory of the season with a 129-119 triumph over the San Antonio Spurs. San Antonio's road record fell to 2-13 despite a 35-point performance by Alvin Robertson.

Terry Porter scored a career-high 31 points, leading the Portland Trail Blazers to a 126-114 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics. Dale Ellis led the Sonics with 32 points.

Pugh advances in New Zealand

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — American Jim Pugh, the No. 6 seed, struggled through a marathon second-round match Wednesday to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$93,400 Benson and Hedges Open tennis championship.

The 25-year-old was on court for two and a half hours before overcoming unseeded Swede Christian Bergstrom.

"It was tough out there, but nothing compared to the hit-ups that my dad has been putting me through in the past couple of days," Pugh said later.

His father, Jim Pugh Sr., a veteran player, is travelling with

his son.

Pugh lost the first set to Bergstrom in 29 minutes.

But a more aggressive approach gave Pugh a break in the second game of the second set, and he repeated the effort in the eighth game although he, in turn, conceded a break in the fifth.

Earlier, New Zealander David Lewis lost to Jim Grabb of the United States 6-3, 3-6, 0-6.

In Sydney, Australia, top seed Pam Shriver struggled to beat unseeded Sara Gomer of Britain 6-7, 7-5, 6-2 Wednesday in second-round play at the New South Wales tennis tournament.

Cash ignores protest prospects

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Wimbledon champion Pat Cash has said that fluff tennis balls were worrying him more than the threat of anti-apartheid protests at the \$1.9-million Australian Open.

"The only protesters I'm going to worry about are my opponents on the other side of the net," he told reporters.

Nicki Bruce, spokeswoman for the Australian Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAAM), said demonstrations were held at Melbourne's new national tennis centre against all Australian players who had played in South Africa. The two-week open starts Monday.

Cash caused a storm in November when he accepted an invita-

tion to play in the South African Open — which he won — in a last-ditch attempt to qualify for the Nabisco Masters.

Bruce said her organisation, which opposes South Africa's policy of racial segregation, had a number of activities planned but did not intend to inconvenience the public or disrupt the open.

Cash reserved his criticism for the decision by organisers to use an untried brand of tennis ball. He said the Nassau balls, made in South Korea, were heavy and "fluffed up" too easily on the open's rubberised synthetic rebound surface.

"The tennis balls haven't really been tested properly. After a few minutes they start fluffing up like pineapples," Cash said.

"To say that they're terrible

tennis balls is not 100 per cent true, but they are about the only disappointing thing at this whole centre."

He said the prospect of long baseline rallies on what was essentially a hard-court surface would make the problem worse.

"When you get Mats Wilander playing Ivan Lendl, after one rally, which will last five minutes, the ball is going to be very fluff," he said.

Australian Open general manager Jim Reid said the balls had been made to tournament specifications and put through a rigorous round of laboratory tests.

The Nassau balls replace the Slazenger-made balls used at previous Australian Open tournaments.

E. German swimmers continue medal sweep

ADELAIDE (R) — Cornelia Sirch, with victories in the women's 50 metres backstroke and 800 metres freestyle, led

another East German sweep of the medals on the second day of the second international swimming meeting on Wednesday.

The East Germans won seven of the 10 events on the programme with Raik Hanneman being named swimmer of the session for his explosive win in the 200 metres individual medley.

Hanneman clocked two minutes 4.11 seconds, over two seconds ahead of West German Peter Bermel in second place and under two seconds outside the

Australian all-comers record. Australia's Rob Woodhouse was third.

Other East German winners were Dirk Richter in the men's 200 metres backstroke, Joerg Woithe in the men's 50 metres freestyle, Silke Hoerner in the women's 100 metres breaststroke and Heike Friedrich in the women's 200 metres freestyle.

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U.N. report urges international action to cut shipbuilding capacity

GENEVA (R) — Government subsidies and other aid to shipbuilders have prolonged a 10-year world shipping surplus, and early improvement seemed unlikely, a United Nations body reported on Tuesday.

The secretariat of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimated that the world had about one-fifth more merchant ships than it needed, and around 30 per cent of its shipbuilding capacity was surplus to requirements.

Excess merchant ship tonnage was estimated at more than 130 million deadweight tons in mid-1986, and preliminary indications were that there was no substantial reduction in 1987, it added.

Recent projections showed that world shipbuilding capacity would still exceed expected de-

mand by around 20 per cent by 1990. Excess capacity was likely to continue well into the 1990s unless there were substantial reductions, it added.

The report, prepared for a meeting next month of UNCTAD's shipping committee, said its findings tended to confirm that "the major cause of the present prolonged shipping crisis lies in the very high level and the scale of government financial subsidies as well as indirect support measures, for example, through fiscal arrangements."

It added: "Recent decisions within the framework of regional economic groupings and by individual countries indicating a continuation of relatively high subsidy levels do not permit an optimistic forecast of improvements in this situation."

The report suggested the UN-

CTAD shipping committee should consider adopting principles to be adopted by states to promote more orderly development of world shipping and shipbuilding, taking into account special interests of developing countries.

Big computer firm scales down interest in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — British computer giant ICL Computers, joining a wave of disinvestment in South Africa, is scaling down its operation in the country.

ICL, one of Britain's biggest computer companies, said on Tuesday it would partly disinvest by selling half of its 93 per cent shareholding in its South African subsidiary, ICL South Africa Ltd., to a local conglomerate for undisclosed terms.

It was the first major disinvestment by a British company since Barclays Bank sold its South African banking interests in November 1986.

The surprise announcement came as British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, on a visit to Kenya, expressed strong opposition to disinvestment and economic sanctions against white-ruled South Africa.

Scores of foreign companies have disinvested in the past three years, citing pressure from anti-apartheid groups and South Africa's troubled political and economic outlook.

ICL said in a statement released in Johannesburg that it will effectively sell half its shareholding in its South African subsidiary to Malbak, a local industrial conglomerate.

"Some funds will definitely be leaving South Africa," a company official told Reuters. He declined to specify the purchase price or give any other details of the transaction.

ICL's South African subsidiary, which employs 900 people, markets and distributes the company's computer and electronic products.

Anti-apartheid campaigners and some governments are putting growing pressure on companies to leave South Africa because of the white-led government's racial policies.

So far, few British firms have left, but 141 American companies have pulled out over the past three years, according to the Washington-based Investor Responsibility Research Centre.

Direct U.S. investment in South Africa has fallen to about \$1 billion from \$2.6 billion at the beginning of 1985, Western diplomats say.

Dollar movements confuse markets

LONDON (R) — The dollar's new year rally seemed to falter in Europe on Wednesday morning until a report of yet another secret pact to boost its value sent it higher.

The dollar, which started 1988 at record lows, had soared since central banks started buying it on Monday to support it.

The rally paused on Wednesday morning. A sell-off in Asia pushed it two pence and 2.5 yen below early peaks of 1.6440 marks and 129.30 yen, despite buying by the Bank of Japan.

It bounced back, going above 1.65 marks and 129 yen in Europe by midday after Japan's NHK network broadcast a report that the United States, West Germany and Japan had secretly agreed to intervene to boost the dollar when it fell below 130 yen last month, setting aside \$5 billion to do so.

Shares edged higher in London but were little changed in Frankfurt, Zurich, Paris and Amsterdam.

Tokyo, the world's biggest stock market, jumped 5.6 per cent after the government said it would probably relax accounting rules for big investors.

"A lot of people are very confused. They need some time to recover from this week's events," said a senior currency dealer at a large regional West German bank.

Central bankers in Europe and Japan kept their steady buying of the dollar this week, as they did the week before. But this

week, the U.S. central bank, the Federal Reserve, moved decisively to join them.

Its move reassured investors, who feared the United States was not wholeheartedly committed to propping up the dollar.

Trades were also heartened this week by news of a secret accord to back the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada — statement pledged continued support for steady currency rates.

Although the content of the secret pact was not disclosed, dealers reckoned it was a pledge that central banks would intervene to boost the dollar — a view they felt was confirmed by this week's buying spree.

The buying brought the dollar back from lows of 120.20 yen and 1.5615 marks it hit on the first day of trading in 1988. But on Wednesday, when a Japanese central bank official specifically denied a report that the G-7 had agreed a range of 125 to 130 yen for the dollar, dealers started selling out.

The selling did not carry over to Europe, but currency dealers were more cautious.

"The underlying tendency is

still positive," a Frankfurt stockbroker said. "Even if the dollar is not going to rise any further, it looks as if it has stabilised."

That could be good news for shares in Europe and Asia.

A weak dollar cuts sales of European and Japanese firms in the U.S. market, and gives their American competitors a pricing edge elsewhere.

In London, the FTSE 100-share index rose 11 points, or 0.6 per cent, to breach 1,800 for the first time since Oct. 23 when it was falling after Black Monday on Wall Street.

Amsterdam's CBE-All Share index slipped 0.1 point to 71.2 but the Paris Bourse indicator edged 0.79 per cent higher and Swiss shares gained 0.5 per cent.

Frankfurt was mixed, as the Boersen-Zeitung 30-share index opened 0.98 points lower at 268.43.

But despite the dollar sell-off in Asia, Tokyo shares soared, with the Nikkei 225-share index up 1,215.22 points, or 5.63 per cent, to 22,779.50. The gain was second only to the 2,037.32 point surge on Oct. 21, as the market bounced back from the mid-October crash.

Dealers said the government's announcement that it will probably relax accounting rules for special money and fund trusts

eased fears that some financial institutions — the biggest investors in Tokyo — might have to sell huge amounts of stock to dress up their financial reports.

"The Japanese government is saying they are happy to relax the rules to help the market," a foreign broker said.

"The ministry of finance doesn't want the market to be weak," said Mr. Akio Ishida, deputy general manager of Yasuda Trust Fund.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 59.80 points, or 2.5 per cent, to close at 2,463.02. Singapore shares rose 3.04 per cent and Australian stocks were up one per cent.

The price of gold fixed at \$481.60 an ounce in London, up \$6.10. Gold's gains boosted shares in Johannesburg.

Fed seeks to show commitment

Meanwhile, dealers say that the usually secretive U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) has become a more active and visible in foreign exchange markets, emerging with greater frequency to buy dollars and underline its commitment to a stable U.S. currency.

"The Fed's giving a signal that something has changed, that the period of benign neglect of the dollar is over," said Mr. Lawrence Ryan, senior vice president

at European American Bank. Dealers said the U.S. central bank's manner shifted last week when the dollar hit a series of historic lows. They said the Fed has since begun buying dollars more often and has altered its behaviour in other, subtle ways.

Although the Fed in the past has demanded a high degree of discretion from the commercial banks with which it trades, it recently implied that it would not be averse to news of its operations reaching a wider audience.

It still refuses to discuss its open-market operations, unlike the West German and some other central banks.

The Fed is not believed to have purchased anywhere near the \$1 billion that the Bank of Japan was said to have bought on Monday alone.

But dealers say the tone of its intervention has grown more aggressive. On Tuesday, for instance, the Fed was said to have bought dollars at 1,6130 Deutschmarks as the U.S. currency was coming up from below 1.6100 marks.

The West German, Swiss, Austrian, Italian and Canadian central banks also intervened on the dollar's behalf this week. The Bank of Japan was in the market again after Monday's foray.

U.S. bank failures hit new high

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bank failures in the oil-producing states of Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana last year pushed U.S. closings to their highest level since the depression of the 1930s, a government agency reported Tuesday.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) reported 184 bank closings among the 14,000 commercial banks it insured last year. More than half — 95 — came in the three states plagued by the moribund oil market. Fifty banks closed their doors in Texas, 31 in Oklahoma and 14 in Louisiana.

An additional 19 banks required assistance from the insurance fund to stay afloat, 15 of them were in the three southern oil states. The FDIC insures individual depositors accounts up to \$100,000 each.

"Our current hope would be that next year would be a little better in terms of bank failures," FDIC Chairman L. William Seidman said. "Much will depend on what happens in the energy-producing states."

Mr. Seidman said in an interview that the recent drop in oil prices has helped to dampen his optimism.

Oil prices plunged early in 1986 from more than \$30 a barrel to the \$15 range. They recovered to more than \$20 a barrel, but fell again late last year after feuding OPEC nations failed to reach an agreement that would have supported prices.

Mr. Seidman said U.S. banks so far have suffered no great harm from the Oct. 19 stock market crash, but added, "it does create uncertainty."

The 184 failures in 1987 compared with 138 in 1986, 120 in 1985, 79 in 1984, 48 in 1983 and 42 in 1982.

However, the figures are small when compared with the early 1930s when deposits were not insured and rumours could spark runs by people frantic to withdraw their money.

Four thousand banks collapsed in 1933, the year before the FDIC was created. From 1934 to 1939 they averaged 67 a year, little more than one-third of the current rate.

Danes start '88 without new defence budget

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark, seen by its NATO allies as a weak link in the Western alliance, has begun 1988 without a new defence budget because the minority government cannot agree a cash ceiling with the opposition.

The previous three-year agreement on defence spending expired at the end of December, and the Conservative-led ruling coalition of Prime Minister Poul Schluter is seeking an increase over four years of six per cent above inflation.

"I regard it as necessary to increase the defence budget by 800 million crowns (\$130 mil-

lion). This proposal ought to be carried by the pro-NATO parties in parliament," Mr. Schluter said in November.

But the main opposition Social Democrat Party, whose backing the government needs to get a defence deal through parliament, has refused to sanction any rise beyond inflation.

"We ought to be able to reach agreement on a zero (inflation) solution within three months," Social Democrat leader Svend Auken said optimistically this week.

From NATO's viewpoint, Denmark's position at the mouth of the Baltic Sea could prove crucial

in an East-West war. But Mr. Schluter's minority government has faced a series of humiliating setbacks on defence policy in parliament, where the coalition holds only 70 of the 179 seats.

"Defence is a big victim of the present political position," Mr. Niels Helveg Petersen, leader of the centrist Radical Party, told Reuters.

Denmark's allies are especially critical of its defence spending, which under the last agreement was 2.3 per cent of gross national product — the third lowest in the alliance after Luxembourg and Canada.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8100/10	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2195/25	Canadian dollar
	1.6425/35	Deutschmarks
	1.8466/76	Dutch guilders
	1.3362/72	Swiss francs
	34.35/38	Belgian francs
	5.5450/80	French francs
	1208/1209	Italian lire
	128.25/35	Japanese yen
	5.9325/75	Swedish crowns
	6.3700/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.3125/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	480.50/481.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares remained firm in late trading but were below the high of the day seen around midday when the FTSE 100 index broke through 1,800 for the first time since the world stock market crash last October, dealers said.

An uncertain opening on Wall Street was cited as the main cause of Wednesday afternoon's easing, with this being attributed to the dollar's nervous fluctuations after two days of gains based on concerted central bank intervention.

Volume was high, but dealers pointed out that of the 486 million shares traded by 1500 GMT over 125 million were in old and new B.P. At 1530, the FTSE was 12.9 points up at 1,802.5.

Earlier, dealers had attributed Wednesday's gains mostly to the early strength of the dollar, which predictably helped the stocks of large U.K. dollar-earning companies.

B.P. new shares gained a net 4 1/2p to 76 1/2p after a high of 78. The Bank of England's 70p per share support scheme expired at 1500 GMT but this had little effect on the shares which only weakened in line with the rest of the market, dealers said.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Ringer Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can improve your efficiency greatly if you sit down and work out a detailed, common sense plan. This is especially true of your workplace, where you should arrange each day's duties for each person.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be sure you handle your regular duties in a very precise and conscientious fashion, whether at home or in your place of employment.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Find out more about a recreation you've been planning before you get into it. Buy a nice gift for your mate and improve home conditions greatly.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Check your newspaper and other periodicals for ideas on how to improve your home. Be quite precise in any written communications.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) This is a good day to do some shopping for things which you and your family need. Use great caution while driving.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Study your assets and liabilities very carefully, then pay your overdue bills. Stay within your budget if you make any repairs to your home.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't allow your perfectionist nature to annoy your friends and family. Decide on what it is you want, and make plans accordingly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Once you have collected the important information you need, keep it confidential or you might end up losing out on a great opportunity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you need some advice, go only to those persons who have had success in that particular area. Enjoy a favorite hobby with your mate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Credit and community matters should not be neglected today, but stay at home with your mate this evening and be safe and happy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to find new and improved methods of operation so that you can add to your present abundance. Use your imagination.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Keep a promise to your mate or your home situation could become very unpleasant. This evening can be a very happy one.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) If you're having any problems with a co-worker, sit down together and come to an agreement. Don't take any risks while in motion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be sure you don't make any financial commitments that you really can't handle. Let your friends know just what it is that you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Steer clear of a cranky co-worker today. The world is your oyster this evening, so keep an eye out for pearls. Be kind and considerate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't argue with an associate over duties. You can make some new acquaintances of great worth today, so be friendly.

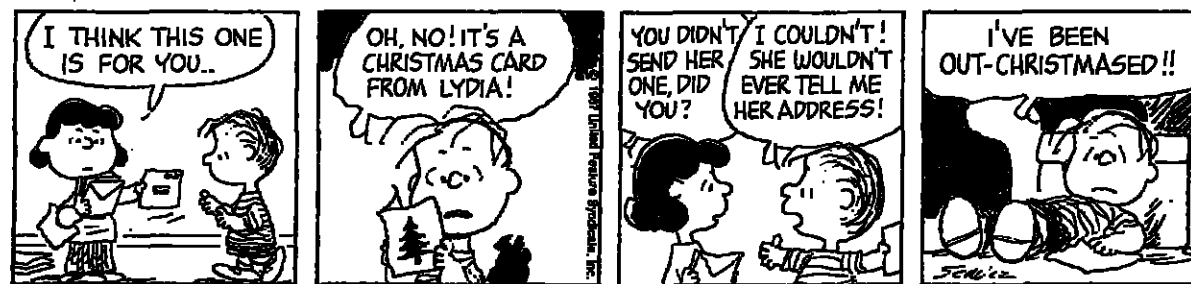
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Make plans for greater security in the future, and don't waste your money on anything of a frivolous nature. Focus on teamwork.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get out of the house early today, and don't be sidetracked by anything trivial. If anyone offers you a favor, take it and be thankful.

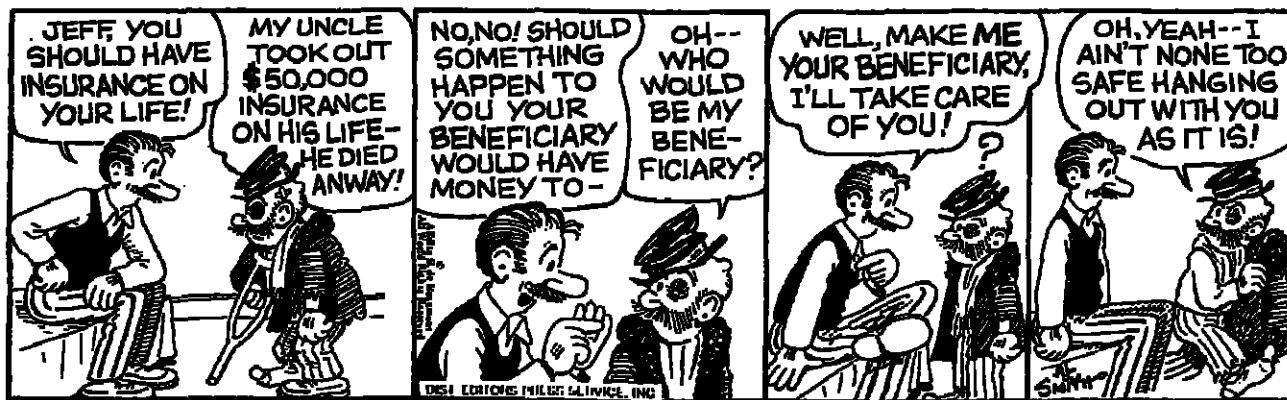
PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) If you use the best from the past and add some modern touches, you'll improve your environment greatly and also please your family.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Avoid a new contact who is very

Peanuts



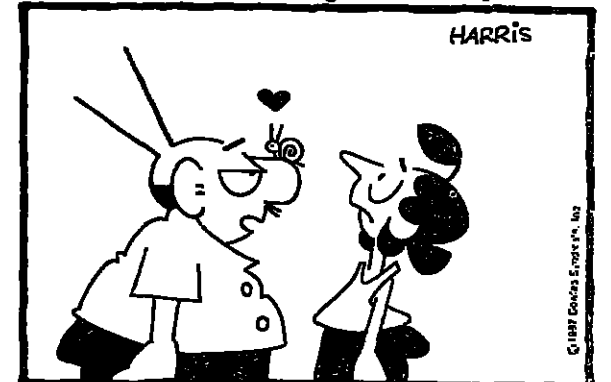
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

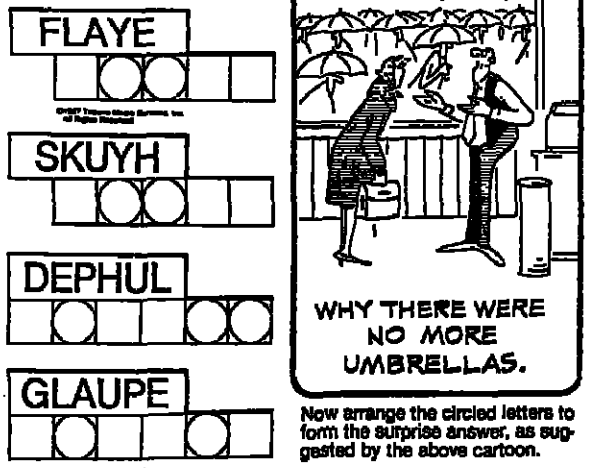


THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



ANSWER: THEY WERE

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRAIN LIVEN TACKLE SCROLL

Answer: Where a fanatic's train of thought always runs—ON A SINGLE TRACK

Opposition denies foreign hand in bid to oust Ershad

DHAKA (R) — One of Bangladesh's main opposition leaders, Begum Khaleda Zia, has rejected government charges that foreign powers are instigating a recent opposition-led campaign to topple President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

"The government is making irresponsible utterances playing up the bogey of foreign involvement in order to confuse the people and divert their attention from the movement (against Ershad)," she told Bangladesh journalists on Tuesday night.

Mrs. Khaleda, leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, said people waging the campaign to oust Gen. Ershad were aware of their social and political responsibilities.

"They are also capable enough to defend their motherland against any aggressors from home and abroad."

She was referring to statements by Shah Moazzem Hossain, deputy prime minister and secretary-general of Gen. Ershad's

Jatiya Party, that those seeking Gen. Ershad's resignation were playing into the hands of unnamed foreign masters.

"All their actions are designed to serve those trying to jeopardize Bangladesh's independence and sovereignty," Mr. Hossain told party workers on Monday.

Twenty-one opposition parties began a united campaign of strikes and demonstrations on Nov. 11 trying to force Gen. Ershad to resign and transfer power to a caretaker government to oversee future elections.

Mrs. Khaleda, who also heads a seven-party opposition alliance, urged people not to be misled by "baseless propaganda" and to boycott parliamentary polls set for Feb. 28.

Gen. Ershad, now visiting Egypt, has repeatedly said he will not resign under pressure and asked opposition to seek people's verdict on their demands by taking part in the proposed polls.

The other main opposition leader, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has also spurned Gen. Ershad's election plans as a new ploy to perpetuate his power.

"Our movement will not stop until the hated dictator steps down. There can be no more elections under his supervision," she said in a statement.

They have also warned that polls held without the participation of major opposition groups would further deepen the political crisis.

Gen. Ershad, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1982 but reestablished civil rule in November 1986, dissolved the country's 330-member parliament on Dec. 6, nine days after he imposed a state of emergency.

New storm promises more snow in U.S.

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A killer cold wave hung over the United States from the Midwest to the east on Wednesday, driving thousands of homeless people to temporary shelters, while a new storm promised more snow in the west.

An emergency was declared in the nation's capital, enabling Washington's homeless residents to spend the night inside City Hall. In Chicago, activists briefly took over two empty public housing apartments.

Shelters were filled there and in other major cities stretching from Alabama to Colorado to New York.

"I'm 50 years old and have never asked anybody for anything, any type of help or support," said Thomas Evans, who spent Tuesday night with his wife, June, in a Montgomery, Alabama, shelter. "But now we're out of a home... and we sure appreciate it."

At least 11 deaths have been blamed on the weather since Saturday.

A burgeoning southwestern storm system prompted warnings for more than a foot (30 cm) of snow by Thursday in Oklahoma, up to a foot of snow in Utah and 8 to 10 inches (20 to 25 cm) in Arizona.

Snow advisories were posted for much of Nevada, Colorado and higher elevations of New Mexico, with snow and freezing rain extending across sections of Kansas and Texas.

Record low temperatures for the date were set Wednesday in Beckley, West Virginia, where it was 2 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 16 Celsius); New York City, where it was 12 degrees F (minus 11 C); and Newark, New Jersey, where it was 9 degrees F (minus 13 C). A giant ice machine froze solid in St. Paul, Minnesota, as frigid Canadian air blew across the U.S.

In Minneapolis a 79-year-old man was found frozen to death in front of his house on Monday, apparently after injuring himself in a fall, police said.

Commission sees injured Nicaraguan children

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — President Daniel Ortega summoned members of a national Peace Commission to a children's hospital to see youths he said were wounded in a rebel attack.

The 15-member commission is trying to determine if Nicaragua and four other Central American countries are complying with a peace plan the countries' presidents signed in August.

The commission on Tuesday visited the Velez Pais Hospital, where Mr. Ortega pointed to

about 15 children whom he said were wounded by contra rebels during a Christmas-time cease-fire called by the government.

Earlier Tuesday, the commission heard complaints that the Sandinista government was not living up to the terms of the accord.

The peace plan calls for cease-fires in the insurgencies in Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador, along with amnesties, democratic reforms and ending tactical support for insurgencies.

Thatcher backs sanctions stance during Kenya visit

NAIROBI (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has defended her controversial opposition to sanctions against South Africa during a trip to black Africa which she said was "to see and to learn."

At a state banquet in the Kenyan capital on Tuesday night, she and President Daniel Arap Moi stated publicly what they had earlier agreed privately — that South Africa's apartheid system was repugnant but differences over ways to bring it to an end would not harm their friendship.

The two leaders met for 70 minutes at the start of a busy two-day programme for Mrs. Thatcher, during which Mr. Arap Moi will accompany her to his home region in western Kenya. Mrs. Thatcher has described

her five-day trip to Kenya and Nigeria, her first major visit to Africa since becoming prime minister in 1979, as long overdue.

In her banquet speech, she said: "I felt I should come and see for myself more of the tremendous efforts at economic development which are going on in Africa... Now I have come to see — and to learn."

But her strong rejection of further economic measures to wring racial reform out of Pretoria puts her squarely at odds with the rest of the continent. Mr. Arap Moi declared: "We believe that apartheid is evil and that it must be dismantled."

"Our call for sanctions is not an act of vengeance, rather it is the only peaceful weapon left that will dismantle apartheid."

Brazil jail revolt ends

SAO PAULO (R) — A prison official has warned Brazilians that more riots would occur in jails unless measures were taken to relieve overcrowding after five people were killed when police ended a prison revolt on Tuesday.

Police spokesman Sergio Mota said police launched the last of four attacks on the Jacu State Penitentiary near Porto Alegre to put down a revolt which began on Monday when 10 prisoners took 27 hostages in an escape attempt.

Three hostages and two prisoners died of gunshot wounds in the attacks, Mota said. Three hos-

tages and one inmate were seriously wounded in the operation, which Mota described as the bloodiest prison uprising in Rio Grande Do Sul state.

One prison rebellion after another has occurred in Brazil in recent months, mainly in the southern states of Rio Grande Do Sul and Sao Paulo, where prisons are severely overcrowded.

Officials say the prison system has never been so close to breaking point.

"I've never seen a crisis as big as this one," Mota told Reuters. "If the government doesn't take urgent measures the situation will worsen."

Aquino rules out talks with rebels

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Corazon Aquino has exhausted all peaceful means to settle the Communist insurgency and further talks will be "a dialogue of the deaf," her spokesman said on Wednesday.

Presidential Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno told reporters after a cabinet meeting Mrs. Aquino's policy of an all-out

military offensive against the 18-year-old Communist insurgency "stands."

"The government has always maintained it has already exhausted all peaceful means to arrive at a peaceful settlement," Mr. Benigno said.

Mr. Benigno said he saw the military "sharpening the

strategy" against leftist insurgents and right-wing army rebels in 1988.

Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos has predicted the Communist insurgency is likely to intensify this year with the rebel New People's Army (NPA) increasing its commando attacks in the cities and raids in the countryside.

Colombia orders arrest of drug baron

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia has issued orders for the arrest of drug baron Jorge Luis Ochoa and four other men reputed to be the country's top drug smugglers with the intention of extraditing them to the United States.

The Justice Ministry took action on Tuesday night after the United States expressed outrage and threatened retaliatory measures over Ochoa's release from a Bogota jail last week.

All five men are at large.

Washington has long been

seeking Ochoa's extradition on charges of smuggling cocaine on a large scale into the United States.

The United States said on Tuesday it was toughening entry and inspection of Colombian imports and travellers because of its concern over Ochoa's release.

The five men named in the arrest order are said to head the Medellin narcotics cartel and are sought in the United States on drug smuggling and other charges.

Besides Jorge Luis Ochoa, the arrest orders include his brothers Juan David and Fabio, Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha and Pablo Escobar Gaviria.

Their whereabouts are unknown, however, and the Colombian Supreme Court declared a 1979 U.S.-Colombian extradition treaty unconstitutional last July. It was not immediately clear, therefore, whether the arrests were ordered simply to pacify Washington.

Haitians to take part in Caribbean meeting on Haiti

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP) — Four prominent Haitians, including one of the main candidates in the aborted presidential election, will join Caribbean leaders to discuss Haiti's political crisis, officials said.

Prime Minister John Compton of St. Lucia, chairman of the Caribbean Community, called the meeting to discuss events since the Nov. 29 election, which was stopped hours after it began because of roving bands of men who killed 34 people and wounded 75.

Soldiers either stood by or joined in the slaughter. A military-run junta has governed Haiti since dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier fled the country on Feb. 7, 1986.

Lt.-Gen. Henri Namphy, leader of the junta, abolished the independent Electoral Council, named his own and scheduled another vote for Jan. 17. Opposition leaders, including the four who will be in Barbados, say his

action is illegal and threaten to boycott the election.

Many Caribbean leaders have urged Gen. Namphy to postpone elections until it can be guaranteed they will be free and fair. Haiti is not a member of the 13-nation regional group, known as Caricom, but has observer status on four councils.

More than half Caricom's heads of government are expected to attend the conference, Barbados officials said. The community's members are Antigua-Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad-Tobago.

Haitians scheduled to attend include Louis Dejoie II, one of the four leading presidential candidates; Louis E. Roy, a constitutional expert; former senate candidate Paul Latortue and human rights activist Jean-Claude Bajoux.

Bush hurls barbs at Dole

WASHINGTON (R) — Vice President George Bush, nearing the first voter tests of his front-running Republican presidential bid, has said his top rival, Senator Robert Dole, lacks the broad experience needed in the White House.

"I'm not sure that being in Congress all of your life is part of the answer. I think it may be part of the problem," Mr. Bush told the National Press Club.

"I've been in Congress, I respect it... but I've done other things in my life," Mr. Bush said when asked about Sen. Dole's charges that he has never demonstrated leadership ability.

2nd flaw reportedly found in new shuttle design

NEW YORK (R) — A second flaw has been discovered in a redesigned joint of the U.S. space shuttle's booster rocket which failed during a test firing last week, the New York Times said on Wednesday.

The newspaper said in a front page report that engineers from the space agency NASA and the booster rocket's manufacturer, Morton Thiokol, had found that hot gases from the rocket leaked through a new type of interior insulation and reached a critical O-ring seal.

Failure of a similar O-ring seal in another part of the booster was blamed for the explosion of the shuttle Challenger in January 1986, which killed seven astronauts and indefinitely grounded the other three shuttles.

The insulation leak was found in the joint where the booster's moveable nozzle is attached to the main body of the 149-foot (45 metre) solid fuel rocket.

That leak during the test firing was in addition to the failure of a special carbon ring used to attach the nozzle to the lower end of the main rocket body.

The failure of the carbon ring, which broke apart, forced the indefinite postponement of the next shuttle flight, which had been scheduled for June.

China frees Bishop of Shanghai after 30 years

PEKING (R) — Former Bishop of Shanghai Ignatius Gong, whose 30 years in prison made him a symbol of Catholic resistance to the Communist authorities, has been declared a free man at the age of 87, officials said on Wednesday.

The Shanghai Higher People's Court on Tuesday released Bishop Gong from parole conditions which he had been under since leaving jail in 1985 and restored his political rights, a spokesman for the officially-approved Catholic Patriotic Association said.

Diplomatic sources in Peking

Republican Senate leader Dole has served in Congress since 1961 and has had no non-political jobs since 1951.

Mr. Bush countered by citing his experience in building a successful oil business in Texas during the 1950s and in foreign policy as U.S. envoy to China, ambassador to the United Nations and Central Intelligence Agency director.

"How many know foreign policy from being there, talking to these leaders, not in a photo opportunity or a group going over there from the Congress, but from trying to make something happen?" Mr. Bush asked of his rivals.

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Bishop Gong was appointed Bishop of Shanghai by the Vatican in 1950. He was arrested in 1955 and sentenced to life imprisonment for treason, which allegedly included forbidding young Chinese Catholics from volunteering to fight in the Korean War.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Estenson

IMPOSSIBLE TO DO WITH "EASE"

By Kenneth Witte

ACROSS

- 1 Fungus
- 2 Agave's land
- 3 Hummer
- 4 Cynereen
- 5 Hunt
- 6 Part part a
- 7 Plastic sand-
- 8 - (L) (wales)
- 9 - (L) (wales)
- 10 Knight
- 11 L-R tie
- 12 Frustration
- 13 First abate
- 14 Cynereen
- 15 Not fallacious
- 16 Washbasin
- 17 Knot
- 18 Knotty situation
- 19 Stag
- 20 Musical "too much"

DOWN

- 1 Unse
- 2 Arabian best
- 3 Kind of walnut
- 4 Afloat
- 5 Thrush
- 6 Tail of cow
- 7 Rose, say
- 8 1978-1984 Al-
- 9 Star pilot
- 10 Pleading story
- 11 Preliminary
- 12 Tada
- 13 "She of"
- 14 Author's copy
- 15 Along with
- 16 Then it
- 17 Afloat
- 18 Rations
- 19 Imaginary ant-
- 20 mal for Carroll
- 21 - basin

Diagram 19 x 19, by Martin J. De Wit

- 1 Vincent Lopez's
- 2 Gaudin
- 3 Felt agent
- 4 Felt a coin
- 5 - islands
- 6 (Hessau's land)
- 7 Hollywood
- 8 (Hessau's land)
- 9 Felt agent
- 10 Felt a coin
- 11 - islands
- 12 (Hessau's land)
- 13 Hollywood
- 14 (Hessau's land)
- 15 Felt agent
- 16 Felt a coin
- 17 - islands
- 18 (Hessau's land)
- 19 Hollywood
- 20 (Hessau's land)

DOWN

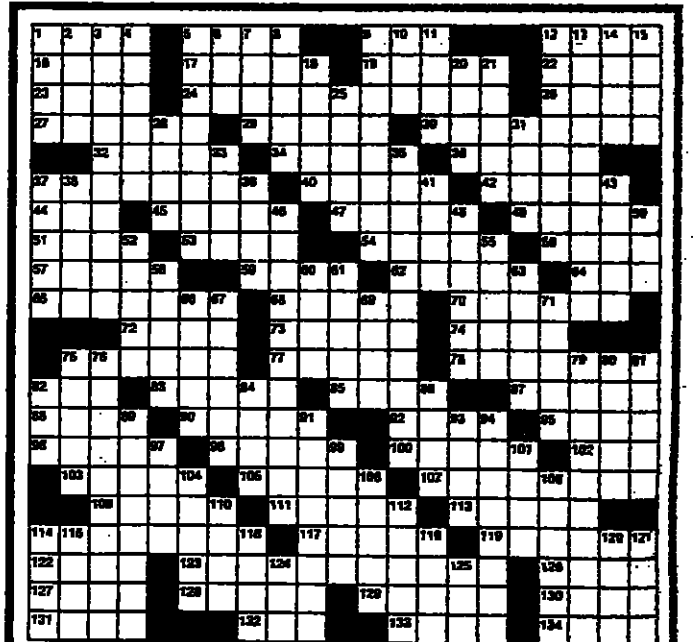
- 1 Long bitter
- 2 Control
- 3 Clump
- 4 In the hand
- 5 - (L) (wales)
- 6 Looking
- 7 Immense
- 8 Deceased
- 9 Kitchens

ACROSS

- 111 "My Co-
- 112 Page Page's
- 113 Page Page's
- 114 Not toppings
- 115 Judea holiday
- 116 Old form
- 117 Cerebral kin
- 118 WWII group
- 119 Disobedient
- 120 Cohort of
- 121 Ben of old
- 122 Matador's
- 123 adversary
- 124 Volcanic city
- 125 Old it
- 126 Small
- 127 Islands
- 128 Amos' cohort
- 129 Chum
- 130 Midway
- 131 good luck
- 132 (hudson days)

DOWN

- 65 Traditional tonic
- 66 Of hand
- 67 Syc. city
- 68 Start for logical
- 69 or path
- 70 parts
- 71 Indians
- 72 Explosional
- 73 bowl
- 74 Orating
- 75 Se long
- 76 Handbills
- 77 Food scraps
- 78 Chubby learn
- 79 Silk fabric
- 80 Start for coast
- 81 four
- 82 Orator's
- 83 Social
- 84 Product of
- 85 "Clever"
- 86 Scaled plant in
- 87 Oxford tutors

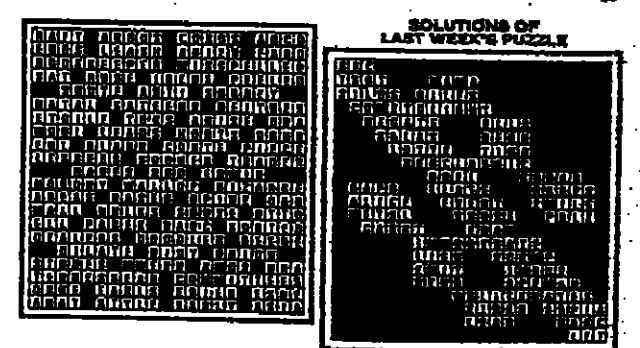


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Salesmen seldom lie; they simply imply that the wares they ply are indispensable, so you will buy.
2. Security net show dog offends other entrants with his "high-pawed" ways.
3. Wall Street Week is ups and downs of fortune's likely payoffs.
4. Jolly jester gets laugh as he huge huge toy have.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. APYAIJGLE DGFC, NJSKN ASQFGLQ YLE
EMMB KWQRCFW QRMFP KYIC DGLC
PYGLW LGFRA AMKNYLGMLQ. —By Sally L. Mundy
2. MYU CHUY BGAOWMOLRAWO VNE PRG
FNZOIG UIOFOTU HUO YVO LOTS LRPO
FMGZ NE BORING VVU YUPUNG ZMZ
YVO CRBANGO NE RG RUU. —By Len Sherry
3. DANDYA BAGAGRAE RAKE RBEGGAYV RAYO
CNS WLY CNDLWY KOOLRA. —By Ed Headlines
4. RUF SNIF PSNBI Z BUWRF IWMP ONIF WISF
Z OFZM NSF. —By Barbara J. Rags



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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THE CHOICE IS NO CHOICE

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 6 4
♥ A 8 5
♦ A J 10 3
♣ A 7 3

EAST
♠ K J 9 8 2
♥ Q 10 4
♦ Q J 8 6
♣ Q 6

SOUTH
♠ A 5
♥ K 7 2
♦ Q 9 4
♣ K J 10 8 5

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

To the uninitiated, it might seem

that South has a choice of finesses

in his attempt to make nine tricks

at no trump. To the cognoscenti,

the play is automatic.

We applaud North's decision to

respond one diamond rather than

two no trump with his balanced 13

points. His spade weakness made it

likely that a no trump contract

would play better from the other

side of the table, where a possible

spade tenace would be protected

from a lead through at trick one.

The correct contract was soon reached.

As a formality, declarer ducked the opening lead and won the continuation. He had six fast tricks, and a successful finesse in either minor suit would bring in the extra three. And in each suit the chance of finding the key card outside was exactly 50 percent. (Note that declarer cannot afford a losing finesse, because the defenders will then be able to reef off three more spade tricks.)

Declarer landed his contract in quick time. After winning the ace of spades, he cashed the ace-king of clubs. When the queen dropped, declarer took his nine tricks and gladly conceded the rest.

No, declarer had not caught a glimpse of West's holding; he was simply giving himself two chances instead of one. Rather than rely solely on guessing which finesse to take, he combined the chances of the diamond hook with finding either defender with a doubleton queen of clubs.

Had the club lady not appeared, declarer would have reverted to diamonds. Incidentally, the correct play in that suit is to run the nine first, not the queen. Then the queen can be led next and declarer will still be in hand, so preserving his entries.